

Israeli-Arab MK awaits Iraqi reply

AMMAN (R) — An Israeli Arab member of Knesset (MK) waited in Jordan on Saturday for Iraq to let him and a delegation of fellow Israelis visit Baghdad. Talab Al Samaa, who represents the Arab Democratic Party in the Knesset, told Reuters he wanted to visit Iraq to express solidarity with the Iraqi people impoverished by four years of Gulf crisis sanctions. "We are here in Jordan making diplomatic contacts to get a positive reply from Iraq to our party's request for a visit despite the opposition of the Israeli government," Mr. Samaa said. "There is a U.N. embargo decision which at this stage, and in these conditions, is unfair. It is our moral duty to express solidarity with the Iraqi people," he added. He refused to elaborate on the nature of the contacts. Iraqi embassy officials in Amman declined any comment. Iraq and Israel have vehemently denied reports that they have had secret contacts on opening a dialogue on future ties. Party leader Abdul Wahab Al Darwesh sent Iraq a letter via its U.N. mission in New York last month asking if party members, dignitaries and Iraqi-born Israeli Jews could visit.

Volume 18 Number 5724

AMMAN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1994, RABI' ALTHA- NI 19, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Al Hassan meets with Arab League chief

NEW YORK (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Saturday met with Arab League Secretary General Ismat Abdul Meguid and exchanged with him views on issues to be discussed by the Arab foreign ministers in their meetings to be held in Cairo on Oct. 1. The meeting was attended by Jordan's Permanent Representative at the United Nations Adnan Abu Odeh, his deputy Fuad Al-Batayneh and Arab League Representative at the U.N. Mahmoud Abul Nasar. Mr. Hassan arrived in New York Thursday to head the Jordanian delegation at the meetings of the 19th session of the U.N. General Secretariat.

Syria rejects Golan referendum

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria said Saturday a proposed referendum to determine if Israel should withdraw from the Golan Heights would lead to a new impasse in peace negotiations. "Taking about a referendum is a new means to plunge the peace process into a new maze," the government daily *Al Thawra* said in an editorial. "It is a blatant defiance of the whole world when Israel links U.N. Security Council resolutions to the Israelis' desire to withdraw or not." Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has pledged to submit a land-for-peace deal to a referendum. Polls show that while most Israelis favour a compromise, a solid majority still opposes total withdrawal.

Two Iraqi officers killed in blast

AMMAN (AFP) — Two Iraqi officers were killed and 12 soldiers wounded in an explosion in Baghdad earlier this month which may have been a deliberate attack, Iraqi opposition parties said in a statement received here Saturday. The Iraqi National Congress (INC), which groups several opposition parties, said a grenade had exploded during intelligence services training session supposed to have been carried out with mock grenades. The intelligence unit's commander, Hafizam Zubeidi, was one of those killed in the explosion which happened at a military college in the capital on Sept. 8, the INC statement said.

Iranian forces stage manoeuvres near Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian special forces and other military units backed by armed helicopters launched a five-day military exercise Saturday near Tehran, Iran's state-run radio reported. The broadcast said the "operational and training exercise" was held near the Amir Kabir Dam in outside Karaj, about 25-40 kilometres west of the Iranian capital. The radio said some 2,000 commandos, along with amphibious units and helicopters, were taking part in the exercise.

Airbus in steep, dive over Orly

PARIS (R) — An Airbus A310 jet of the Romanian airline Tarom tumbled into a brief steep dive near Paris' Orly airport on Saturday before the pilot managed to regain control and make a normal landing, eye-witnesses said. Airport officials said there was no damage to the plane, carrying 173 passengers and 11 crew, which landed at Orly on a flight from Bucharest at about one p.m. (1100 GMT). "Everybody was scared. We thought the plane was going to crash on the town. Everybody was shouting," Lucien La Grante, mayor of the nearby town of Villeneuve St. Georges, told France-Info radio.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية - الرأي

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Abdul Meguid ready to seek Arab reconciliation if Iraq meets condition



Abdul Meguid

CAIRO (Agencies) — The head of the Arab League said in an interview published Saturday he would be willing to visit Baghdad to work for reconciling Iraq with other Arab states but only after specific steps by the Iraqi government.

Arab League Secretary-General Ismat Abdul Meguid said he first wanted assurances his trip would lead to Iraq freeing Kuwaiti prisoners of war (PoWs). Kuwait says more than 600 Kuwaitis are still missing after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"I am ready to go to Iraq to take some of those PoWs out with me," he told the government daily *Al Akhbar*. "I am... saying that we hope Iraq will take a humanitarian initiative soon regardless of other conditions."

"I will go immediately to visit Baghdad if I can guarantee any of this," he added.

Dr. Abdul-Meguid's comments follow reports — and denials — of an Egyptian effort to end the split between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and other Arab leaders.

Baader this week, President Hosni Mubarak repeated his denial that he was trying to mediate between Iraq and Gulf states such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Iraq had spread the rumor of a mediation effort, Mr. Mubarak said.

The split among Arab states — between those that backed Iraq in the Gulf war and those who supported the U.S.-led coalition which liberated Kuwait — is still bitter three years later.

Dr. Abdul Meguid, a veteran Egyptian diplomat, was asked in the *Al Akhbar* interview if he was uneasy about visiting Baghdad to push for Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and its borders.

"I am not at all uneasy about a visit... I said that I am ready to visit Iraq if this trip will achieve the wanted result," he replied.

He then brought up the issue of Kuwaiti PoWs and noted that European prisoners had been freed by Iraq after "high-level contacts with some foreign personalities."

Mr. Meguid urged Iraq to accept all U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Gulf war as a step towards ending sanctions against Iraq.

"I believe this is in Iraq's interest because it is in its interest that the embargo would be lifted as soon as possible," he said.

Arafat to press Rabin on Palestinian elections

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestinian officials said on Saturday their self-rule authority wanted elections held in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on Nov. 1 and this issue would dominate talks on Sunday between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The Palestinians say the elections will be for a body with power to pass laws as well as run day to day life in the self-rule areas.

"Palestinians have set a target date for elections on Nov. 1 and the Israelis are trying to delay this," said Abdul Aziz Haj Ahmad, communications head in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), after its weekly session in Gaza.

Israel says the elections have been delayed because the Palestinians are demanding the elected body has sovereignty which goes beyond the secret deal reached by the two sides in Oslo last year.

In the meeting with Mr. Rabin, Mr. Arafat will insist that elections be held as quickly as possible, said members of the PNA that now runs the autonomous areas.

"We will tell Rabin that the Palestinian intention is to hold elections in November this year," Zakaria Al Agha, the housing minister, told reporters after the weekly session.

The Palestinians want a 100-member body with full legislative powers, while the Israelis say only a smaller council with executive functions is permitted under the autonomy accord.

The Palestinians have accused Israel of using the dispute over the elections as a ploy to stall on troop redeployment in the West Bank. "Palestinian elections are going to be an issue of high

priority. They will top the agenda of the talks with Mr. Rabin tomorrow," local government head Saeb Erekat said.

Palestinian and Israeli officials said the Rabin-Arafat talks would take place at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) at the Erez crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

"We hope the meeting tomorrow will produce genuine results because if the Israelis continue trying to obstruct elections, I think Mr. Rabin is putting the whole (peace) agreement in jeopardy," Dr. Erekat added.

Israel withdrew from most of the Gaza Strip and from the West Bank enclave of Jericho in May, handing them over to the PLO.

Under the Israeli-PLO peace accord signed in Washington a year ago, elections were due to take place in the self-rule areas and in the rest of the West Bank last July.

Dr. Erekat accused Israel of placing bureaucratic obstacles in the path of Palestinian elections.

"They (the Israelis) have not handed us population records, they are not allowing us to conduct surveys, to divide districts and now they are threatening if we open regional election offices to close them," he said.

He said Mr. Arafat had sent letters to U.S. President Bill Clinton, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the prime ministers of 16 European countries and Japan "which he explains to them obstacles facing us and urges them to help with elections."

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told Israel Television: "The problem is that Palestinians are making demands which exceed Oslo including the election of a large number of people in the framework of a legislature and not in the framework of a council as we

agreed."

Dr. Erekat rejected this.

"The DoP (declaration of principles signed in Washington last September) specifies very clearly that the Palestinian council will have a legislative and executive nature, so we are not inventing things," he said.

Israel wants to transfer control of health, social welfare, taxation and tourism in all of the West Bank to the PLO before elections are held, but says it needs assurances that funds are available to cover costs.

Dr. Erekat said: "We can have negotiations and elections and (Israeli troop) redeployment all at once so we can reach the election date before the end of this year."

He said the PLO and Israel were due to resume self-rule talks on Wednesday at a location yet to be announced.

Israeli officials have denied allegations of foot-dragging, although Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres reportedly favours a faster pace than Mr. Rabin in planning elections and redeploying troops.

Israeli media reports have said Mr. Rabin and his key military advisers are in no rush to redeploy, fearing the pullout would heighten the risk of confrontation between Palestinian militants and Jewish settlers.

Some 120,000 West Bank settlers live in the West Bank and the army chief of staff, Ehud Barak, has said protecting them in phase two of autonomy would be a very difficult task.

In the meeting with Mr. Arafat, Mr. Rabin is expected to demand that Palestinian police in the autonomous areas do more to catch and disarm militants opposed to the peace accord. Members of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups have said they would continue attacking Israelis.

Crown Prince returns home; will address U.N. assembly next week

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned home late Saturday after a working visit to the United Kingdom and a several-day private visit to France.

Prince Hassan, who was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, was received by His Majesty King Hussein, Royal family members, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the King's advisors, the Crown Prince's advisor and senior government and army officials.

Mr. Musa said the U.N. sanctions against Iraq, which include blocking the sale of Iraqi oil, should be ended since they were causing severe problems for Iraq's people. But he blamed the Iraqi government for the continued sanctions.

"The Iraqi regime is responsible for the continuation of punishment that is hurting the Iraqi people," he told the government daily *Al Ahram*.

Iraqi Trade Minister Mahdi Saleh said in remarks published in *Qatar* Saturday Iraq's trade partners have lost almost \$64 billion as a result of the four-year U.N. embargo on Baghdad.

"These countries have in the last four years lost nearly \$64 billion, representing the value of their trade with Iraq," Mr. Saleh was quoted as saying by the *Al Ray'a* daily.

He complained that "trade agreements between Iraq and several countries remained frozen."

Mr. Saleh denounced the embargo as unjust and contrary to international law.

In April Mr. Saleh said that Iraq's suppliers had lost \$55 billion because of the U.N. embargo which bans all trade with Iraq except food and medicine.

The sanctions were extended for another two months on Sept. 14.



His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday receives His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who returned home after a working visit to Britain and a private visit to France (Petra photo)

address at the United Nations General Assembly meeting next week, said work on setting up this committee could be the focal point in his talks in the U.S.

Asked about the content of his next address at the U.N. since his address last year dealt with Islam and the way the West and the world view it, Prince Hassan said:

"I think that in the middle of next month there is an important date — which is examining the degree of commitment of the international community towards the issue of Bosnia.

"I think that when talking about the view towards Islam and Muslims, we

have to take into consideration, as we prepare for the Islamic summit in the beginning of next year, a host of issues, the most important amongst which is distinguishing between extremism on the one hand and what is called fundamentalism on the other.... I think that the tolerant Islamic religion and the international tendency to understand Islam is really fundamental part of our meeting at the U.N., and later at the Islamic summit."

"Regarding the U.N. meeting at this time, I think that talks will focus on the 50th anniversary of establishing the U.N., the southern-Asian inclination for representation in international issues, the issue of security, the Security Council and its membership. These issues will be under discussion in this session," Prince Hassan said.

the soldiers' arrival.

The commander of the U.S. troops in Haiti, Hugh Shelton, met Gen. Cedras for a second time Friday to discuss the transfer of power in which Gen. Cedras will step down and allow President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to return from exile in the United States.

U.S. military presence has brought out in forces mar Aristide supporters who last week would have been biding.

Since the bloody coup which toppled Mr. Aristide, the populist Catholic priest elected in a landslide, over 3,000 people are estimated to have been killed, many of them military personnel.

On America, "we are saved by ecclesiastic supporters.

On the death of another. The others, some holding banners, a symbol of Mr. Aristide, chanted "we want Aristide" as they waved branches in the air.

After the beginning of armoured patrols as growing crowds of Haitians, seeing an end to three years of brutal repression, came out in thousands to celebrate

Perry, Shalikashvili visit Haiti

POR-TAU-PRINCE (Agencies) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry and General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived here Saturday to review the U.S. military operation to restore democracy in Haiti.

Haitian police, apparently responding to orders from U.S. military commanders to stop beating civilians after a man was clubbed to death Tuesday, did not intervene in the demonstration.

Dr. Perry and Gen. Shalikashvili were scheduled to have lunch with troops aboard the aircraft carrier America lying offshore in the Caribbean and then visit Marines in Cap Haitien.

Close to 9,000 U.S. troops have landed in Haiti since Monday under an agreement with the country's de facto rulers that they would step down by Oct. 15 to avoid an invasion ordered by President Clinton.

The happy crowd turned the airport road into a street festival with food stands and traffic jams.

Convoys of armoured jeeps drove past huge crowds and along the main streets of the Haitian capital of 1.5 million people.

American forces expanded their presence Friday with the beginning of armoured military patrols as growing crowds of Haitians, seeing an end to three years of brutal repression, came out in thousands to celebrate

PNA says it wants to take over holy sites

GAZA (R) — The Palestinian self-rule authority said Saturday it would take over funding of Muslim holy sites in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including Jerusalem, from next month.

Speaking after the meeting of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in Gaza, Palestinian officials said the authority from October would run and finance the Waqf or Islamic council, currently paid for by Jordan.

"The cabinet has decided that all employees of the Islamic Waqf will come under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Waqf ministry as of Oct. 1," Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim, general secretary of PNA, told Reuters.

The Palestinian authority will be committed to providing them with all the rights and will pay their salaries."

The Waqf, which has some 2,000 employees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, is responsible for all Muslim holy shrines, including the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa in East Jerusalem, considered Islam's third holiest site.

Jordan historically has been responsible for maintenance and administration of the holy sites, and this role was recognised by Israel for the first time in July when the two states signed a preliminary peace accord.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has said the Israeli-Jordanian accord

The visit of Malaysian trade delegation to Jordan

Sept. 29 - Oct. 3

A trade delegation from Malaysia will be visiting Jordan from Sept. 29 - Oct. 3 1994. Members of the delegation are interested to meet Jordanian businessmen/entrepreneurs to discuss the possibilities of cooperation in the following areas:

1. Cooperation in the service industries including banking, insurance, tourism, shipping and forwarding, transportation, telecommunications and consultancy services.

2. Joint ventures in property development, construction, mining, hotels and resort development.

3. Trading.

4. Import of Malaysian products into Jordan including foodstuff, rubber products, plastic products, timber products, furniture, electronic and electrical products, office equipment, textile, household products, ceramic tiles, palm oil and palm

2 Middle East News



U.S.-PAK DEAL: Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (right) and U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary hold a joint press conference following the signing of 16 energy deals worth about \$4 billion on Saturday. The U.S.

investments will be made in the fields of power generation and distribution, oil and gas exploration and mineral development (AFP photo)

Egyptian paper argues for invading Sudan

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian state newspaper said on Saturday that an Egyptian invasion of Sudan to overthrow the Khartoum government would be fully justified.

Ibrahim Saada, editor-in-chief of the weekly newspaper *Akhbar Al Youm*, wrote in a front-page editorial that the Sudanese government had done much more against Egypt than the Haitian government had ever done against the United States.

The time had come for Egypt to call Sudanese rulers to account for their alleged misdeeds, rather than adopting the current policy of treating them with indulgence, he added.

"The Egyptian people have tolerated from the rulers of Sudan behaviour which I do not believe can be ignored ... it was high time long ago that they were responsible for it," he said.

If the big neighbour, the United States, pushed to save the people of Haiti from their corrupt rulers, it is Egypt's right to follow the example and strike hard to topple the Sudanese government to save its people and at the same time avenge insults directed at Egypt and the Egyptian people," he added.

"We have had enough insults, plotting and incitement from these dwarfs. They

should not understand that Egypt's tolerance towards the crimes and sins of the small is (a sign of) weakness or impotence," he said.

Mr. Saada gave a long list of alleged anti-Egyptian acts by the Khartoum government — expelling an educational mission, stealing the members' possessions, impounding an Egyptian ship and holding the passengers hostage, claiming the Halab triangle on the border and training militants for acts of violence in Egypt.

In an interview published on Thursday, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said he still had no plans to take part in a war of words with the Sudanese government.

Foreign Minister Amr Musa, in an interview in the government newspaper *Al Abram* on Saturday, said he expected to meet Sudanese Foreign Minister Hussein Suleiman Abu Saleh during the U.N. General Assembly in New York within a few days.

Sudan had wanted Mr. Musa to make a visit to Khartoum but Mr. Musa said

Egypt refused when Sudan tried to block Egyptian membership of the preferential trade area in East Africa.

Mr. Musa said Egypt's dispute with the Islamist-dominated government in Khartoum was ideological in origin and he singled out Islamist leader Hassan Al Tourabi, spiritual leader of the Sudanese rulers, for complicating relations with Egypt.

He said there was increasing evidence that training camps for militants existed in Sudan, either with or without the knowledge of the Sudanese government.

But he added that there was still a chance that his meeting with Mr. Abu Saleh and other contacts might improve relations.

Egypt has made no sign of moving the diplomatic battle towards armed conflict, but the unusually strong statement by Mr. Sadah — who sometimes voices the government's view — raises the level of rhetoric.

Mr. Sadah compared Egypt and Sudan's situation to that of the United States and Haiti. He wrote that U.S. forces stepped in to "overthrow a dictator regime" and suggested Egypt could do the same basic against Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir and

Dr. Tourabi.

"It is the right of the Sudanese people that Egypt — their big neighbour — follow the footsteps of the United States and aim painful blows at the regime of Al Bashir and Tourabi until overthrowing it," the column said.

Egyptian-Sudanese relations have worsened since the Gulf war when Egypt backed the U.S.-led coalition to drive Iraq from Kuwait and Sudan supported Iraq.

The conflict has focused on Halab — a traditional source of argument — and Egypt's charges that the Sudan government supports militants trying to impose Islamic law on Egypt.

Halab, a triangle along the Egyptian-Sudanese border, was defined within Egypt's territory under an 1899 British treaty, but Egypt gave administrative control to Sudan. The latest argument started in 1991 when Sudan sought to lease oil rights in the Red Sea Halab to a Canadian firm.

Lately, the argument has grown to include charges by both countries that their diplomats were being harassed and beaten in each other's capitals. Egypt also claims Sudan is seizing Egyptian property in Khartoum.

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Omar Hassan Al Bashir and

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Mr. Saada gave a long list of alleged anti-Egyptian acts by the Khartoum government — expelling an educational mission, stealing the members' possessions, impounding an Egyptian ship and holding the passengers hostage, claiming the Halab triangle on the border and training militants for acts of violence in Egypt.

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Anani to sign debt write-off agreement



AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Saturday gave the go-ahead to the signing of an agreement with the U.S. to write off \$220 million of Jordan's total debts due to Washington estimated at \$702 million.

The Cabinet authorised Information Minister Jawad Anani, who is currently in the U.S., to sign the agreement.

It was Dr. Anani who announced last month that the U.S. would write off the \$20 million before the end of September. He spoke on Aug. 5, the day after the U.S. House of Representatives endorsed a compromise foreign aid bill that included a provision for debt relief for Jordan, saying that the rest of the Kingdom's debts to Washington would be deleted in 1995 and 1996.

Finance Minister Sami Gammah said the U.S. administration has pledged to write off all Jordan's debts to the United States.

He said also that the Cabinet has set up a delegation to travel to Paris and negotiate the rescheduling of the Kingdom's debts to France.

According to the statement, Michael Marib, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) will lead the team to the Paris talks.

Last month U.S. President Bill Clinton urged the Paris Club which includes France, to act as rapidly as possible to relieve Jordan's financial burden through bilateral debt forgiveness.

The Council of Ministers also Saturday decided to endorse an agreement on cooperation in administrative

fields with Tunisia. The agreement provides for the exchange of expertise and training of personnel.

The Cabinet authorised Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan to travel to Japan and attend the opening of the Osaka International Airport in November. Dr. Adwan will attend the ceremony along with 49 ministers of tourism from around the world.

The ministers also consented to Jordan joining an agreement on nuclear safety with the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and endorse a trade protocol with Egypt which provides for increasing national goods to be exchanged between the two countries.

The Cabinet gave its consent also to Jordan's participation in the Babylon Cultural and Touristic Festival to be held in Iraq between Oct. 22 and 26. Two local folkloric troupes will participate in the coming festival.



Jordanian fresh produce on display at a German agricultural fair (file photo)

Fresh produce marketers head for east Europe

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation led by Salem Lawzi, head of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Monday will head for Moscow on the first of visits to Russia, Poland and Latvia to discuss trade issues.

Dr. Lawzi told the Jordan Times Saturday that there are good prospects for Jordan to market its agricultural products to these countries.

"In our 12-day trip to the three countries, we plan to meet with officials in charge of imports as well as businessmen, and we intend to explore the local markets and their needs of agricultural products," said Dr. Lawzi.

Currently Jordan is sending shipments of agricultural products by air to western Europe countries and is exporting crops by land to countries of eastern Europe, said Dr. Lawzi who added that Jordan has not yet sold such products to the three countries on

his itinerary.

It is hoped that the visit will result in year-round sales of produce, not only winter crops which are produced in the Jordan Valley earlier than other regions, he said.

"We are seeking to open new markets for Jordan's exports in Europe despite strong competition from Spain and Portugal which sell agricultural products to countries of the European Union (EU), said Dr. Lawzi.

Jordan which is also seeking to expand its markets rather than relying heavily on markets of the Arab states, hopes to be able to penetrate fresh produce markets in Ukraine and other eastern European nations at a later stage, he added.

Several major Jordanian fruit and vegetable exporters along with the director of the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) are accompanying Dr. Lawzi on the trip.

British businesses ready to expand area ventures

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The British government as well as business community are very interested in expanding trade relations with Jordan and stand ready for joint ventures and transfer of technology, a senior British official said Saturday.

Derek Hornby, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, was addressing a meeting with Jordanian businessmen.

"We are aware that British investment in Jordan is not of the expected level and that is why we are here," said Mr. Hornby, who is accompanied by a group of businessmen representing mostly companies dealing with water technology, pollution control and engineering consultancy services.

Addressing the meeting, organised by the Jordanian Businessmen's Association, Mr. Hornby said British businessmen were preoccupied with competition from Japan in the domestic British market as well as elsewhere in the mid and late 80s and hence were not able to focus on Jordan and other countries in the region.

In the early 90s, the preoccupation shifted to the requirements of the European Common Market, which came into being in 1992-93. Since then, Mr. Hornby said, the focus was shifting back to the regional markets, particularly the Middle East, now that peace and stability seem to be on their way to be restored to the region.

British businesses are not simply seeking to increase their exports to Jordan, he said.

"Exports give an impression of one losing and another gaining, and this is

not what we have in mind," he said, adding that possibilities exist for direct British investment in Jordan, for joint ventures and for "technology sharing."

Mr. Hornby noted that the delegation accompanying him was mostly made up of executives who represent major British companies specialised in water pumping, treatment and distribution, waste-water and sewerage treatment, civil and electrical contractors and engineering consultants.

He said he believed that in the post-peace era, water is one of the key sectors that would have major demands, given the scarcity of water in the region. This was the reason that prompted him to pick a delegation that had more to do with water and related areas, he said.

Many of the companies represented in the delegation have and are doing business in Jordan. These include Balfour Beatty, Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Partners, Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners — which is currently supervising the building of the Karameh Dam — Wempay Engineering and Construction, Babcock Water Engineering and Unilever.

In addition to the possibilities that peace opens up in the Middle East, business with Iraq is also very much a consideration for British businessmen, said Mr. Hornby.

"Iraq is not going to remain under international sanctions forever," Mr. Hornby noted. He called for a pooling of "British-Jordanian skills" to be used in doing business with the Iraqi market.

Similarly, Jordanian businesses also offer an access to the Palestinian market in the occupied West

A visiting British businessmen's delegation Saturday discusses bilateral commerce with Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Smadi and officials from the ministry (Petra photo)

Bank and Gaza Strip, he noted.

"There are tremendous opportunities in the region, and Jordanian and British business could benefit from each others' technical and business expertise," he summarised.

Similarities in the Jordanian and British economic performances include annual growth, inflation and stability of the currency, he said. "We can do business without having to worry about currency devaluation" — a factor that dissuades many international deals, he said.

In general, he added, more exchanges and face-to-face contacts could help both sides to develop closer links and joint approaches to the chances that the region offers.

Earlier, Hamdi Tabbaa, a former minister of industry and trade and current chairman of the Jordan Businessmen's Association, welcomed the British delegation.

"Although Jordan and the United Kingdom enjoy very close relations and

replied that British offers for consultancy services were highly competitive when compared with their European counterparts while they were indeed high when compared with Jordanian offers.

The businessmen also said that British companies preferred "associations" rather than "joint ventures" since the latter exposes them to liabilities in the host country "if something goes wrong with the project."

Mr. Hornby promised to study the issues raised by Mr. Touqan.

British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe, who also attended the meeting, addressed the question of British firms not interested in doing joint business in the engineering sector in the Gaza Strip as cited by Mr. Touqan.

The main reason for such reluctance, Mr. Hinchcliffe said, was scepticism over the approach of the authorities in the occupied territories. "Who is calling the shots there?" he asked.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Border crossing hours, bridge closing announced

AMMAN (J.T.) — According to regulations issued by Minister of Interior Saleh Hammad the southern border crossing point north of Aqaba will be opened from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. except for Fridays and Saturdays. Mr. Hammad said that visas are issued for third country nationals at the border crossing post. No member of the diplomatic missions accredited to either Jordan or Israel will be allowed to use the crossing in either direction except for those with special permits from the Foreign Ministry, and no vehicles from either side can travel in transit through the crossing point, said the statement. It said, however, that visitors who enter Jordan through the southern border crossing can exit the country through any other outlet including Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA). The King Hussein Bridge will be opened Monday until 10:00 a.m., according to an announcement Saturday by the Public Security Department (PSD). It said the bridge will remain closed Tuesday, Sept. 27 and re-open for regular travel the following day.

Egyptian tourism minister to arrive for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Egyptian Minister of Tourism Mamoud Biltaji is due in Amman Monday on a three-day official visit. A Ministry of Tourism spokesman Saturday said here that Dr. Biltaji will hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart Mohammad Adwan and representatives of the tourism sector, the Agaba Region Authority and the Jordan Ports Corporation. The talks, according to the spokesman, cover cooperation in tourism activities and Egyptian-Jordanian touristic integration in light of the current political developments in the Middle East. Following his visit here, Dr. Biltaji plans to visit Israel on Wednesday, according to the spokesman.

QAIA arrivals area to get face-lift

AMMAN (Petra) — The arrivals area at Building Number Two of the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) will be closed as of Saturday, October 1 for a period of 50 days to allow for major renovations. All arrivals on Royal Jordanian and other airlines will be received at Building Number One during that period.

Lecture on property rights

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman World Trade Centre, in cooperation with the World Trade Centre of Basel, Switzerland, will host a lecture on intellectual property (patents and copyrights) at the Philadelphia Hotel Wednesday evening. The lecture will be conducted by Dr. J. Kurt Jenny.

Scientists can bridge technology gap in coming era of peace — minister



Minister of Housing and Public Works Abdul Razzaq Ensour (centre) Saturday opens a three-day engineering conference (Petra photo)

Engineers Federation (AEF)

AEF Chairman Abdul Rahim Shukri outlined the federation's objectives in helping to pool Arab expertise over the past 30 years.

The three-day seminar was organised by the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) in cooperation with the Arab

Scientific research and problems in the application of scientific research and the transfer of modern technology. One such paper deals with ways of safe disposal of waste and protection of the environment.

The seminar will review 34 working papers submitted by engineers from Jordan and other Arab states tackling sci-

Society (RSS) and other like institutions.

According to Rawhi Sharif, head of a preparatory committee, the seminar was part of Arab engineers arrangements for the 20th Arab Engineers Conference to be held in Khartoum in March 1995.

Syria's Aban Zerikly to bring the 'compelling' Bach to the RCC

By Sally Bland
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Syrian violinist Aban Zerikly has selected pieces from Bach for his concert at the Royal Cultural Centre here in Amman Sunday evening. He insists that Bach is often misunderstood and thought to be stiff and old-fashioned, but this is not the case.

"In fact," says Mr. Zerikly, "the works of Bach for solo violin are very dear to all violinists. It is interesting and even amusing to try and interpret them for an audience. It is not quite right to say that Bach is a difficult, very strict and serious composer. On the contrary, he is sometimes very compelling and easy to understand. He even wrote comic cantatas, like the one called 'The Coffee Cantata,' a light operetta about a young girl who likes to drink coffee, which was a new habit at the time. The cost of all her coffee-drinking bothered her father so much that he wanted to marry her off in a hurry."

Mr. Zerikly's ideas about Bach are part of his philosophy that one can find dynamic elements in classical as well as in modern music. He points out the limitations of having very fixed ideas about

things: "These fixed ideas prevent us from enjoying things."

Today Bach may be considered part of elite culture and mainly remembered for writing church music. Yet, as Mr. Zerikly points out: "It is known that Bach used many popular themes in his religious cantatas. The important thing is to interpret his music well. Then I think his works will be accessible and pleasing to the public. Especially in the parties which I will play on Sunday, you can find a series of short pieces that are based on original folk dances. They vary greatly in character and tempo. You can find a very peaceful one, and then a joyful one. That gives the work more energy and life."

Bach said that he wrote his music for the sake of God, but Mr. Zerikly notes: "That doesn't mean that his works are always serious or difficult. It depends on what we understand by 'for the sake of God.' Every great composer or artist is very simple at the bottom of his heart, so he understands life in a way that is coherent with itself. Mozart and Beethoven were like this."

This is Mr. Zerikly's first visit to Amman, where he

arrived with his wife, Lamia, on Thursday. In addition to playing violin, he teaches classical music and his first stop in Amman was at the National Music Conservatory (NMC) of Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

"I came here," he says, "to open doors, to meet other people, to obtain new experiences. After all, Amman is close to Damascus. In the context of my interest in teaching music, I think that the problems we face in Damascus are much the same as in all the Arab countries. So it is very helpful for me to exchange opinions and experience with people here. In fact, I had an extensive, very useful visit to the NMC and a very interesting conversation with the director."

Sunday evening will be Mr. Zerikly's first solo concert outside of Syria, but last week he was part of the orchestra that played with Fairuz in Beirut. The concert itself and the period of practice leading up to it left a deep impression on Mr. Zerikly. He says: "it was my first time to play in this genre of music, but I think I was lucky to have the opportunity to work closely with Fairuz. I was very touched by her dedication to her art, as well as by her modesty and simplicity. I learned a great deal from that experience."

WHAT'S GOING ON

PLAY

★ Play in Arabic entitled "The Body Test/the Existence" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

★ Film entitled "The Right Stuff" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (193 minutes).

★ Film in Arabic entitled "The Clue" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 7:00 p.m.

CONCERT

★ 18th century musical concert by violinist Aban Zerikly at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings entitled "Donation" by Laila Bustami at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of works by Farouq Zaidi entitled "Faces, Places, and Ideas" at Goethe-Institut (Tel. 641993).

★ Painting exhibition entitled "The Other Side of Mas-

Plague's deadly trail seems to slow in West Indian city

SURAT, India (R) — The plague loosened its killer grip on the western city of Surat, health officials said Saturday, but the disease stalked other regions in India where terrified people had sought refuge.

The official death toll from the highly contagious pneumonic plague inched up to 36 from 34 earlier in the day. Doctors and residents in Surat, a diamond and textiles centre, estimated more than 100 people had died over the past few days.

"The number of deaths is decreasing," senior Health Ministry official A.K. Mukherjee told a news conference.

Residents carrying bare necessities and covering their faces with handkerchiefs flee the plague-hit western city of Surat.

Unofficial reports said up to 300,000 people have so far fled Surat, as several Indian cities went on alert against a possible plague epidemic (AFP photo)



Municipal Commissioner Balwant Singh told Reuters that 65 patients had recovered and been discharged from the state-run civil hospital where victims were quarantined.

The number of people being treated for the airborne disease, which is spread between humans from contaminated breath or sputum and attacks the lungs, was steady at about 290.

"The situation has not improved in terms of admissions but improved in terms of deaths," Mr. Singh said.

Daksha Jaswant of the hospital said: "Today the situation is better. The deaths are much less."

"Patients are coming in at the early stages of the disease so the mortality rate is lower," a resident doctor said.

Outside the hospital virtually all shops remained closed. Most people outside wore handkerchiefs, scarves, surgical masks or towels around their faces to shield against bacteria.

A senior government official in the capital New Delhi said it had been confirmed that the plague was transmitted to Gujarat state north of Bombay by a migrant worker who contracted the disease in neighbouring Maharashtra.

One health worker said he

had beaten up by a mob

wielding hockey sticks when he ran out of supplies Friday.

"I'm more scared of the mob

fury than the plague," he said.

"Demand for Tetracycline

is so much that everyone

wants to consume it like

peanuts," Mr. Singh said.

"This has created anguish

because of the unprecedented

magnitude of the outbreak."

People continued to flee

Surat as the exodus, in

which some 300,000 had

escaped, appeared to be

tapering off.

Farokh Soleiman, a 17-

year-old street seller outside

a packed bus terminal, said

fewer people were leaving.

"Yesterday people were

clambering on top of the

buses, virtually killing them-

selves," he said.

Newspapers said Bombay,

Delhi and other major cities

had virtually run out of the

antibiotic Tetracycline.

Bavarians vote in state elections

MUNICH, Germany (R) — Bavarians vote in state elections Sunday in the last test of public opinion before national polls on Oct. 16, when Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition is standing for a fourth term.

Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) will be watching Bavaria closely to see whether their troubled liberal coalition partners continue a year-old series of six state and European election losses.

If the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) fail to return to parliament in Bavaria, the country's second most populous state, it could cast a shadow over Mr. Kohl's chances to stay in power after the October general election.

A recent opinion poll for the news magazine Focus showed the FDP could expect a slender three per cent in Bavaria after 5.2 per cent in the last state poll four years ago.

German law requires parties to win at least five per cent of the vote to enter any legislature, a hurdle the FDP has failed to reach in five state polls since September 1993 and in European elections in June.

Simpson drama approaches final act

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — O.J. Simpson's murder trial starts here Monday, three and a half months after the bloody deaths of the former football star's ex-wife and her friend mesmerised Americans and launched a national obsession.

Nearly every step of the case has been televised live. Across the country television and radio talk shows have been flooded by people airing their theories on who did it.

Tourists pose for pictures at the murder scene while social commentators point to the case as the ultimate example of domestic violence.

Another key issue in the case is racism. A CNN television poll conducted in July found that only 29 per cent of black Americans believe Mr. Simpson can receive a fair trial, as opposed to 50 per cent of whites.

The prosecution's decision not to seek the death penalty appeased some who fear Mr. Simpson is being railroaded, but Joseph Lowery, the black president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, says the trial will still be a test of racial attitudes in the United States.

"You have a black male and two dead white persons," he said. "I'm not accusing anybody, I'm simply raising a question."

Simpson is accused of stabbing to death his ex-wife, Nicole Simpson, 35, and her 25-year-old friend, Ronald Goldman, outside her condominium. He has denied the charge.

Rod Stewart and baseball players Vince Coleman and Darryl Strawberry.

Johnnie Cochran, who has represented Michael Jackson, courtroom legend F. Lee Bailey, and Mike Tyson's appeal lawyer Alan Dershowitz are also on the team.

Mr. Bailey, who represented Albert De Salvo in the Boston Strangler case, is expected to join Shapiro in the courtroom, while Mr. Dershowitz remains behind the scenes.

So far, the defence has tried to focus attention on arcane DNA evidence, which may or may not prove admissible in the jury trial.

They suffered a setback when Superior Court Judge Lance Ito allowed most of the physical evidence seized by police from Mr. Simpson's \$5 million estate, his business office and his car in the days after the killings.

Their next test will be jury selection from a pool of 1,000 which starts Monday and could last weeks. Opening statements to the jury probably will not start until November.

The trial is expected to be one of the most-watched in U.S. history. But Judge Ito, angered by inaccurate reporting by one Los Angeles television station, has threatened to pull the plug on broadcast coverage.

"I am contemplating terminating the media coverage in this case," Judge Ito said Friday, later explaining that he meant radio and television coverage.

Mr. Kok said she appeared to be concerned by the matter.

They are led by Robert Shapiro, whose other clients have included Marion Brando's son Christian, singer

charges.

The 47-year-old football legend gained fame in the 1970s as a running back for the Buffalo Bills.

He remained in the public eye as an actor, and when he fled police on the night of June 17, hours after he was formally charged with the murders, fans lined the Los Angeles freeways and cheered him on.

Many of his supporters have not been swayed by reports that Simpson was a jealous man, whose threats prompted Nicole Simpson to seek police protection several times during their marriage.

Nicole Simpson's white akita dog, its paws soaked in blood, led neighbours to the scene.

Prosecutors have painted Mr. Simpson as a cold-blooded but careless killer who left a trail of blood from the murder scene to his car.

Tantalising reports of a bloody glove, and most recently bloody socks, said to have been found in Mr. Simpson's car or home have given the theorists material to work with.

The murder weapon, believed to be a 15-inch (37.5 cm) knife, has not been found, but chief prosecutor Marcia Clark says her case stands up without it.

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and actress.

Health Secretary Madhusudan Dayal told a news conference that Surat's population had outstripped its sanitisation capabilities. "I have seen so many stagnant pools filled with water which are the birthplace of germs," he said.

Mr. Dayal said plague victims' corpses had to be burned, not buried. India's Hindus cremate their dead but Muslims and Christians generally bury them.

Heavily guarded vans carrying health workers passed out hundreds of thousands of antibiotic tablets in Surat.

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had been beaten up by a mob

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26. It is the third shuffle for the office in 20 months.

The thrust of the orders is "to provide clear lines of responsibility, clear lines of authority and try to improve the efficiency of the staff itself," Mr. Panetta said.

His decisions came at a time when the administration has been rocked by a series of staff problems including the resignation of several high-level advisers involved in the Whitewater case.

Whitewater refers to the on-going investigation of the Clinton's involvement in land deals and campaign contributions by a savings and loan bank in Arkansas where he was state governor.

Mr. Panetta said that "good judgment has not always been exercised," an apparent reference to widely criticised contacts between the White House and Treasury on Whitewater.

Other top-job announcements included close presidential adviser George Stephanopoulos being officially named as Mr. Panetta's executive assistant.

Former Communications Director Mark Gearan will take up the new post of strategic planning director, reporting directly to Mr. Panetta.

The group includes four males, aged 22 to 34, and the woman, Rasidah Hashim.

Three of the other four people rounded up in the raid face lesser charges of trafficking and drug possession, and one sent to the drug rehabilitation centre.

The five, all ethnic Malays, were among nine people arrested Thursday during a raid that netted 414 grams (14.6 ounces) of heroin, said Masbullah Fazal, deputy director of the Central Narcotics Bureau.

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The

World News



JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1994 5

3rd body pulled from Hong Kong plane wreck

HONG KONG (R) — A third body was recovered Saturday from the submerged wreckage of Hercules transport plane that plunged into the water of Hong Kong harbour, killing at least three people.

A crew of 12 was aboard the plane at the time of the crash Friday just moments after takeoff on the aircraft's third flight in 13 hours.

Three people are still missing and feared drowned. Six others are in hospital, one critically injured.

The flight recorder has not yet been recovered from the wreckage in Kowloon Bay and arrangements were being made to salvage the broken fuselage of the 12-year-old plane with heavy-lift crane.

The airport, with its single runway jutting into the harbour off densely populated Kowloon, was closed for two hours following the accident.

Fifty-two outbound flights and 39 incoming flights were delayed with two others cancelled, a government spokesman said.

All 12 on board were Indonesians. The Jakarta-based British chartered 1100-30 transport plane had just returned to the British



Firemen carry an injured man out of an Hercules transport plane after takeoff (AFP photo)

colony to drop off Hong Kong police, prison service and immigration officials who had accompanied 33 Vietnamese boatpeople deported earlier in the day.

But Hong Kong's Secretary of Security Alistair Asprey said the accident would not halt Hong Kong's plan to continue deporting Vietnamese migrants.

A spokesman for Hong Kong's Civil Aviation Authority said it was too early to speculate on the cause of the accident.

Friday's crash marked the third time in six years that an aircraft has skidded off the single runway at Hong Kong's ageing airport and

into the heavily polluted waters of the harbour. It was the worst incident since a Trident operated by China's CAAC plunged off the runway into Kowloon Bay in 1988, killing seven.

Last November, all 296 passengers and crew on a Taiwanese B747-499 miraculously survived when the aircraft overshot the runway lashed by storm-force winds and ditched in the harbour.

Late last year, authorities halted on safety grounds the practice of aircraft taking off and landing in opposite directions, a system used late at night and in the early morning to cut down noise over Kowloon.

The Hercules planes, a type which has been in service since 1952, was operated by Pelita Air Services of Indonesia and sub-chartered by Heavylift Cargo Airlines Ltd., a unit of Britain's Tragafar House Plc.

The cramped airport, which dates from before World War II, has one of the world's busiest runways, sandwiched between the harbour and teeming high-rise housing estates of Kowloon City.

The Indonesian-operated Hercules was taking off for its home base Jakarta and had reached an altitude of 60 metres when it suddenly flopped into the harbour.

The Serbs anticipated the imposition of new sanctions by ruling out any further discussion of the peace plan until it was redrawn by the big power contact group which prepared it.

The plan divides Bosnia almost equally between the Serbs and a federation of Muslims and Croats. Serbs would be obliged to give up a third of the territory they control after 29 months of fighting.

The U.N.'s sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro were imposed in May 1992 to punish Mr. Milosevic for arming and organising the Bosnian Serb war machine as old Yugoslavia disintegrated.

The United States and its allies have long suspected that North Korea had in the past secretly siphoned off nuclear material from its one operational reactor to use in developing a crude nuclear device.

The Vienna-based IAEA, the United Nations nuclear watchdog, Friday renewed its call for inspection of two sites where it believes there could be evidence of nuclear arms development.

Mr. Kang's comments were seen as illustrating Pyongyang's willingness to comply eventually with IAEA agreements, to run in parallel with a multi-billion dollar operation to supply the isolated state with new reactors.

The deal may also hinge on an accord between Washington and Pyongyang — bitter adversaries since the 1950-53 Korean War — to open up diplomatic missions in each other's capitals.

"We have never recognised special inspections," he declared.

N. Korea to allow inspections once pact agreed

GENEVA (R) — North Korea indicated Saturday it would open up its atomic sites to full inspection once trust had been built up with the United States and both sides had agreed on a pact to restructure its nuclear industry.

But the Communist state warned Washington that its recent deployment of IS battleships in the Sea of Japan could torpedo a few round of talks in Geneva on Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

North Korea's chief negotiator Kang Soo-Ju said that once his country was satisfied with U.S. assurances that it would receive light-water atomic reactors, it would eliminate any remaining suspicions over its nuclear programme.

In an unscheduled appearance before reports at the North Korean mission in Geneva, a relaxed Kang reiterated that his country could not accept "special inspections" of suspect sites sought by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"We have never recognised special inspections," he declared.

Buthelezi defies king, gives Shaka Day speech

STANGER, South Africa (R) — South African Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi defied his king's ban of Shaka Day celebrations to speak to a crowd of 10,000 Saturday amid heavy security.

"I believe that the day of King Shaka should not be used for any party political wrangling or point scoring," Mr. Buthelezi told enthusiastic supporters gathered at King Shaka's memorial monument in the middle of this rural town.

As the Zulu chief spoke, hundreds of police and members of the South African National Defence Force armed with shotguns and assault rifles patrolled the centre of town, nearby townships and large areas of KwaZulu-Natal province.

Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini had ordered the Shaka Day festivities cancelled and broke off relations with his 65-year-old uncle after supporters of Mr. Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party stormed the royal residence early this week.

Mr. Buthelezi, speaking at the place of the 45-year-old king,

effectively claimed victory over his nephew and said the celebration honouring the founder of the Zulu nation in the 19th century was the biggest.

"This year King Shaka's celebration the largest in 40 years," Mr. Buthelezi told cheering supporters, most of them dressed in traditional leopard skins and brandishing clubs, sticks, spears and shields.

King Shaka was a unifier of people. It would be wrong to use his commemorative functions to divide people instead of uniting them," he said, urging his supporters to unite to rebuild post-apartheid South Africa.

Violence in KwaZulu-Natal has eased since the elections but about 15,000 people have died in the past decade in fighting largely spurred by rivalry between Inkatha and the ANC.

Townships around the port city of Durban and Stanger were quiet earlier Saturday.

The settlements had been wracked by political fighting among Zulus divided in loyalty to the ANC and Inkatha.

Another service, also to be

addressed by Mr. Buthelezi, is to be held in Kwamashu Sunday. The township outside the port city of Durban is regarded by many as an ANC stronghold.

Mr. Buthelezi, who is home affairs minister in Mr. Mandela's government, said he was the one who fought for constitutional recognition of the Zulu monarchy in democratic South Africa.

"The fight to secure the Zulu monarchy was a fight for a democratic South Africa. It is not a fight for the Inkatha Freedom Party. I do not ride on the back of his majesty, the king of the Zulus," he told cheering supporters.

"If it were not for the Inkatha Freedom Party and myself, the monarchy would have been destroyed now," he added.

Mr. Buthelezi did not comment directly on the rift or refer to his having been sacked as the king's traditional prime minister.

The official programme still described Mr. Buthelezi as "traditional prime minister to King Zwelithini."

Armani, Ferre quizzed in Italian corruption probe

MILAN (R) — Designers Giorgio Armani and Gianfranco Ferré, two of the biggest names in Italian fashion, were interrogated Saturday as part of a sweeping graft probe into tax authorities in Milan, judicial sources said.

The two were quizzed by Italy's top anti-graft investigator Antonio Di Pietro over alleged bribes paid by Italian companies for easy treatment during routine investigations.

Some of Italy's most famous designers have been touched by the probe, which has sent a shudder through the fashion world only days before the opening of Milan's one of

the industry's main international events.

The corpulent, bespectacled Ferré, who is also the chief designer for the house of Dior in Paris, declined to comment as he left Milan's grim courthouse accompanied by his lawyer.

"I have nothing to say," said Ferré, whose angular design bark has led to his training as an architect. He was dressed in a blue, double-breasted blazer and grey trousers.

The 50-year-old Ferré's organisation is suspected of having paid kickbacks to tax authorities in Milan, Italy's capital of fashion, state television said.

Recently, designers Kryzia

His interrogation was preceded by that of the silver-haired and suntanned Armani, 60, whose ready-to-wear garments, renowned for their simple lines, cost up to \$10,000.

Italian News Agency (ANSA), quoting judicial sources, said the House of Armani was suspected of paying about 100 million lire (\$66,000) in kickbacks.

The designers' names added to the roll-call of top figures who have paraded through Mr. Di Pietro's office, an unwarranted distraction before next Saturday's opening of the fashion show.

Mr. Di Pietro, Italy's most popular magistrate, spearheaded the probes into corrupt links.

With the Japanese flag flying over part of the Fairmont camp at the airfield, he was

introduced to French officers overseeing their pullout from Goma, which is due to be completed by the end of the month.

Then Mr. Tamazawa and his delegation, accompanied by a mob of Japanese journalists and television crew paid a flying visit to Mugunga refugee camp outside Goma which houses some 220,000 people — up to 30,000 of them soldiers and militiamen of the defeated Rwandan army.

A motorcade of around 25 vehicles, escorted by truckloads of heavily-armed Zairean soldiers, some with mounted machine-guns and blowing whistles, cut a swathe through the traffic and masses of people on the

Bosnian Serbs prevent U.N. patrols in weapons ban zone



Ambassador Sergei Lavrov (2nd left), the Russian Federation's permanent representative to the United Nations, votes in favour of a Security Council resolution suspending some sanctions levied against the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro for its role in the Bosnian

conflict. The resolution was approved with 11 yes votes and two abstentions. Rwanda's permanent representatives, Ambassador Bakarumutsa Manzi (right), was one of those who abstained (AFP photo)

Moscow also out of patience with the Bosnian Serbs, they are virtually friendless in their confrontation with the big powers while U.S. pressure mounts for the lifting of a U.N. arms embargo against their Muslim foes.

Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) forces were still firing at the airport and at United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops in spite of the NATO attack on the T-55 tank.

It was hit by warplanes after a French peacekeeper was seriously wounded by Serb fire Thursday.

The NATO intervention and the imposition of new U.N. sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs were part of intensified efforts to make them comply with U.N. resolutions and to agree to a big power peace plan for Bosnia.

The sanctions agreed Friday ban foreign travel by political and military leaders of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb Republic and trade with the territory.

At the same time, the U.N. Security Council eased sanctions against rump Yugoslavia, restoring international air and sporting links, in return for Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's military blockade of the Bosnian Serbs.

With Belgrade's allies in

allowed the reopening of Belgrade Airport and Podgorica Airport in Montenegro to international flights once the secretary general is satisfied the blockade of the Bosnian Serbs is working.

Residents of Serbia and Montenegro heaved a sigh of relief Saturday as the United Nations lightened the embargo against them, but many said the move was unlikely to relieve the difficulties of their daily lives.

The Tanjug news agency said that "the Security Council has taken a first step towards repairing its own mistakes and has reintegrated Yugoslavia into the international community."

Although the "good news" announced by all Belgrade's radio and television stations early Saturday did not lead to an explosion of joy in the streets, passers-by said they were pleased that the "ice was broken" and said they hoped that "better days" lay ahead.

But for many of Yugoslavia's 10.5 million inhabitants who often find it difficult to meet their basic requirements after two years of sanctions, the move will not change much in their daily lives.

Chirac cold-shoulders joint ticket with Balladur

PARIS (R) — Conservative leader Jacques Chirac Saturday reacted coolly to calls for a joint campaign ticket with his rival presidential hopeful, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

A day after Mr. Balladur implicitly tagged him a loser in the most bruising battle between the two men so far, Mr. Chirac appeared anxious to distance himself from his probable fellow-contender for the nomination of the Rally for the Republic (RPR) party.

Asked about calls from inside the Gaullist party for him to run as president with Mr. Balladur as his designated prime minister, RPR leader Chirac firmly signalled the idea had long ceased to be relevant.

Mudflows have been a constant threat since Pinatubo erupted in 1991, dumping millions of tons of ash and debris.

"That was thought up some time ago," he told

Zaire will not be another Haiti — Japanese minister

GOMA, Zaire (AFP) — Japanese peacekeepers in Zaire will consider whether to open fire to defend aid workers or other threatened people on a "case-by-case" basis, Defence Minister Tokioichiro Tamazawa told AFP Saturday.

Asked what his troops would do if confronted with the sort of situation which saw U.S. troops stand by in Haiti earlier this week as a man was clubbed to death, he said: "We are here for the humanitarian operation and we expect that such things will never happen. The soldiers can fire only in self-defence."

Pressed on whether Japanese troops would open fire to protect themselves, but not others — such as aid workers in the volatile refugee camps around Goma — he said: "Of course the possibility exists to help if there is danger and they are near us, for their protection. Case-by-case."

Mr. Tamazawa was in Goma to see preparations for the arrival of Japan's first foreign military mission under its own command since World War II.

He was met at the airport by Zairean Minister of Defence Mavua Mudimo and escorted past a guard of honour by a goose-stepping officer.

With the Japanese flag flying over part of the Fairmont camp at the airfield, he was

introduced to French officers overseeing their pullout from Goma, which is due to be completed by the end of the month.

At the edge of the sprawling camp, Tamazawa inspected refugee hovels made of sticks, straw and U.N.-donated plastic, with refugees fleeing Zairean soldiers who cleared the way.

Later, he was due to meet the local governor before returning on his Air Kenya charter flight to Nairobi.

An advance party of 20 Japanese soldiers arrived in Goma Friday to prepare for the arrival of the main contingent of 290 troops supported by 180 air force personnel on Oct. 2.

Japanese troops have taken part in U.N. operations in Cambodia and Mozambique since 1992, but their mission to Rwandan re-

fugees is the first under independent command since World War II.

They are due to provide mainly medical services and water purification, but many in Japan fear they could be sucked into the violence which is never far from the surface in this region.

Well-placed Western sources say there are strong indications, particularly from Mugunga camp, that the defeated Rwandan army is planning to launch an offensive in October to try to regain power.

The soldiers, mainly from the Hutu majority, fled the country ahead of rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Army after mass murders of the Tutsi minority.



A Zairean and a Japanese soldier talk at Goma Airport. The first Japanese soldiers to take command arrived Friday in Goma to help Rwandan refugees (AFP photo)

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

Established 1975

شارع الملك عبد الله الثاني، عمّان، الأردن

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Going the extra mile

THE DECISION by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to visit the Middle East by the beginning of October to reactivate the Syrian-Israeli track of the peace talks indicates that progress is expected. The gap between Tel Aviv and Damascus on the major two issues of withdrawal from the Golan and normalisation of ties seems to be narrowing, prompting Mr. Christopher to come to the area to push for a breakthrough in apparently stalemated negotiations.

What adds credence to the speculation that something is brewing on the Syrian front is the flurry of Israeli political activity on the Golan Heights. There has been talk recently in Israel of compensating Israeli settlers when the time becomes ripe for dismantling Jewish settlements on the Syrian lands. Even the Likud leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, is no longer viewing vacating the Golan as a taboo and instead insisting on keeping all of the Golan Heights as only a "starting" point for the negotiations with Damascus. The Likud's earlier conditions for either general elections or a referendum before withdrawal from the Golan are not expected to raise practical obstacles should Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President Assad succeed in reaching a peace deal through U.S. mediations by the end of this year. Given President Assad's commitment for total peace in return for a complete Israeli withdrawal from Syrian territory, the gap between the two countries is anything but unbridgeable.

Whether American diplomacy is able to convene a high-level meeting, presumably between the foreign ministers of the two countries on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly meetings in New York, remains to be seen. Such a meeting, symbolic as it may be, would certainly help warm the atmosphere of negotiations between the two. Yet the Syrians are determined on hearing a commitment first from the Israeli side for a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights in accordance with U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. The Israeli side, led by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, might just use the opportunity to declare such an intention at the General Assembly. Should that be the case, a real breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli front would be made.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Saturday decried lack of coordination among the Arab parties involved in the peace process with Israel, saying that the Madrid conference seems to have divided rather than gathered the Arab parties or unified their stand. Mahmoud Rimawi said that it is regrettable that relations among these parties are frozen or lukewarm, something which can by no means help the Arab Nation regain its usurped rights. It is regrettable also to see the peace process going along four rather than one track, with some of them moving forward faster than others. The writer said that the four Arab governments involved in the peace process should realise that the Arab people in Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria have a common denominator and their interests are one and the same; and they should therefore work towards streamlining their stand and pooling their efforts to arrive at the common objectives. It is hard to explain the present situation in which, said the writer, Arab parties are continually drifting away from one another the closer they move towards a deal with Israel.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dastoor Saturday said that the cost of living in Jordan has become unbearable while unemployment rates continue to grow every day. Problems facing Jordan on the domestic front are so many and so serious; and the government is called on to embark on practical steps to address the situation, said Tamer Al Adwan. We do not expect the government to apply Socialism neither do we expect it to play the role of Robin Hood — taking away the wealth of the rich to give to the poor — but we expect rationalising public expenditure as well as applying social justice, said the writer. Our government like any other in the world, cannot end the country's crisis with a magic but it can and should act in unison and in a team to find solutions to the chronic problems, said the writer. He said that the public feels that each department is striving to increase state revenues regardless of the public interest.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Are confidential negotiations in progress?

LOOKING AT the surface only, we may conclude that the Jordanian-Israeli peace process is going nowhere. But it seems that there is much more than meets the eye.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister and the intellectual engineer of the peace process, insists that peace negotiations with any Arab country should take place at distinct levels, one in the open, the purpose of which is to show a commitment to peace in front of TV cameras for all the people to see and accept, and the other in secret to exchange concessions away from the glare of the TV cameras and other media which may limit the ability of the negotiators to move, and may harden positions and prevent decision-makers from backing off on previously declared positions which were meant only as a starting point in the bargaining to maximise results.

At the same time we notice that three years of active Jordanian-Israeli negotiations in the open failed to produce more than a preliminary agenda which was hesitantly signed on Sept. 14, 1993, while huge achievements and a major breakthrough were made in a fast manner and crowned in the Washington Declaration. It is evident that this progress did not take place suddenly but was the outcome of a confidential track, the results of which were transferred to the official track, which appeared to have suddenly moved after a long period of stalemate.

Now we find that the official track of negotiations which took place at the two sides of the Dead Sea and at the shores of Tiberias are stagnant with no results worth mentioning. Yet the Jordanian people are told to rest assured that the peace process is doing fine and that the results are promising and the right decisions are being made to safeguard the best interests of the country, and the well-being of the people.

Putting these seemingly contradicting facts beside each other, namely the insistence of Israel on a secretive course

of negotiations, the breakthrough of July 1994, the stagnation in the formal course of negotiations, and the assurances which Jordanians recently received from their top leaders, then we can simply conclude that the real action is not that which we watch live at the TV screens, nor what Fayed Tarawneh, head of the Jordanian delegation is telling the media after each session. The most important thing takes place somewhere else without any noise.

In the meeting of the Jordanian journalists with Prime Minister Abdil Salam Majali, I asked the premier directly whether a secretive track of negotiations existed. He did not confirm nor deny the assumption, but he mentioned meetings and talks that are taking place outside the ordinary negotiations. Therefore, the conclusion of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel within a few months could not be ruled out if the secret negotiations are, as we expect them, progressing faster despite the waste of time in the official negotiations.

Should the Jordanians worry that we may end up with a bad treaty, secretly cooked? I don't think so. The Jordanian rights and conditions are well-known and defined, no Jordanian official can accept less. We were told that 385.7 square kilometres of our land were seized by Israel and must be returned. No responsible Jordanian official can afford to accept 385 square kilometres and give away the remaining fraction.

Similarly we were told that we have the right to receive 100 million cubic metres of drinking water from Tiberias being our share in River Jordan. No responsible official can settle for less. As far as Yarmouk River concerned, all Israeli objections and reservations against the implementation and international financing of Al Waha Dam must be lifted. Other problems related to Yarmouk River will be worked out with Syria separately.

Important movement on Syrian track

By G.H. Jansen

Rabin asserted that an initial withdrawal from the Golan would be "marginal" follow by a three year probation period. For the Syrians this offer was merely grotesque and they rejected it.

However, suspecting that "something" was going on, hardliners in Israel opposed to an withdrawal increased their well-organised and noisy protests backed by the Likud opposition party in parliament.

Since Mr. Rabin has only a narrow majority in parliament, it did not take very much to convince it that pushing ahead with concessions on the Golan would almost certainly lead to its loss in the next election in 1996.

Accordingly, Israel is now vigorously back-pedalling away from even the appearance of concession. Hence the statement by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, a dove to Mr. Rabin's hawk, that there could be a marginal withdrawal before the elections but that any major withdrawal could only come three years after the election, that is in 1999. Which, for the Syrians, is utterly ludicrous.

The Syrians, always wary of Israeli duplicity, left themselves an escape hatch by saying that the present peace process was only one option, from which Syria could pull out. That would, virtually, mean the end of the process.

Corruption probes fuel fratricidal French race

By John Folain
Reuter

PARIS — A spate of corruption probes rocking France's political establishment is fuelling a backstabbing climate poisoning the race for next year's presidential elections.

The main victims are in the ruling coalition, which is being torn apart by the rivalry between two undeclared candidates — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, both of the conservative Rally for the Republic (RPR).

This week alone, two of Mr. Balladur's ministers have had to deny corruption allegations.

Suspicions that the allegations were being driven by politics surfaced at a two-day meeting of RPR parliamentarians in the eastern city of Colmar, which was dominated by the right's fratricidal war.

On the first day of the meeting on Thursday, a newspaper said Youth and Sports Minister Michele Allion-Marie was under investigation for alleged receiving payment from a pharmaceuticals firm for a fictitious consultancy work.

One party spokesman hinted heavily that this was part of the infighting between the two presidential hopefuls.

"There's nothing new in the report. The question is who has an interest in making this come out now?" she said, indicating that the answer was the Balladur camp because Minister Allion-Marie is very close to Mr. Chirac.

According to the conservative daily *Le Figaro*, the rough-and-tumble scuffling by undeclared candidates in advance of the 1995 campaign has created a poisonous atmosphere in

"people watch each other, people can't stand each other. Knives are being sharpened backstage. It's become a thieves' kitchen," said the paper.

Industry Minister Gerard Longuet is under pressure to quit for allegedly underpaying for building work on his holiday villa in Saint-Tropez.

Communications Minister Alain Cangnon res-

China's reformist road looks safe from a Soviet-style breakup

By Lyman Miller

WASHINGTON — Current opinion on China has an end-of-an-era tone, a sense of coming dynastic change. Deng Xiaoping has turned 90. In recent years, as Mr. Deng has retired from his official posts, China-watchers have maintained a death watch, expecting his imminent demise to set in motion political transition and perhaps disorder.

Some expect the sort of vicious factional conflict over succession that is typical of Communist states, leading quickly this time to the collapse of the Communist Party. In its place, some see the outbreak of democracy, others the imposition of military authoritarianism in the name of maintaining order. For yet others, there is a prospect of the breakup of China, following the example of the Soviet Union.

This is probably a mistake. China is different from the Soviet Union, and our view of it should not be coloured too much by what happened there. Remember, it was only a few years ago that China was seen not as the repressive, reactionary Communist political fossil it seems today but rather as the front-running reformist state. It seemed at least possible that China might succeed in building a new, market-driven economy out of its failing Stalinist planning system. China, not the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, seemed ripe for liberalising evolution, perhaps even revolution.

This overnight shift in perspective suggests caution against extreme predictions. For the foreseeable future, the continuities

in China before and after 1989 and Tiananmen may turn out to be as important as the undeniably impressive changes.

One of the key constituents is Communist political leadership. The leadership, headed by Mr. Deng, was the critical ingredient in the changes in China after 1978. It remains an important engine of change today.

Second, the resurgence of economic reform over

China's foreign trade system to conform to international standards, and corporatising the money-losing state enterprise system. They were ratified at the highest party levels last October. Their endorsement shows that the party leadership is not paralysed and without a clear sense of policy direction.

Third, the resumption of economic reform over

of Mr. Deng, the party elders whose disagreements dominated politics in the 1980s are a declining force. Death has already thinned their ranks. Four of the eight key elders died in the past two years, all from the conservative wing. The remaining elders are rarely heard on any issue. The key elder, of course, remains Mr. Deng. Attention in China's media to his rare public appearances and views seems orchestrated to reinforce present reform policies and to spotlight the roles of front-line leaders in preparation for his passing.

Last, the central leadership has not lost the means to control the provinces. Assertions of provincial autonomy, in which the provinces ignore Beijing and go their own way, rest on economic trends and are exaggerated.

In short, China's present top leaders comprise an activist leadership that is not weak, fragmented and waiting passively for Mr. Deng's passing or its own demise. The Communist regime indeed faces daunting problems of transforming China's economic system and governing a rapidly changing society. These tasks entail unpredictable challenges that may well overturn the regime in the end. But leadership paralysis, inflexibility, passivity and divisiveness are not likely to contribute to that outcome if present trends continue.

There are undoubtedly divisions and conflicts among these men, but to an unusual degree they have not crept into public view. Instead, public leadership activities show a rigorous effort to project a clear division of labour and observance of routine.

Third, with the exception

"In short, China's present top leaders comprise an activist leadership that is not weak, fragmented and waiting passively for Mr. Deng's passing or its own demise."

There are several reasons to suspect that China's present party leadership, headed by party chief Jiang Zemin, will prevail in a post-Deng era. First, it has pursued an aggressive programme of economic reform despite significant risk to social and political stability. The economic boom in China is often associated with Mr. Deng's tour of South China in early 1992, but it draws on a surge of reform that began in 1990, when party conservatives were forced to acknowledge that their policies had led the economy into severe downturn.

Since then, resurgent party reformers have steadily pressed ahead, placing on the agenda key institutional changes.

These include banking and fiscal reform, revamping

the past four years suggest an unusual degree of leadership consensus. This impression is borne out by a close analysis of the political predilections of the seven-member Politburo Standing Committee, China's most powerful political body. Six of the seven are reformist in orientation; the seventh — Prime Minister Li Peng — has conservative credentials; but since the fall of 1991 has been working hard to sound like an activist reformer.

There are undoubtedly divisions and conflicts among these men, but to an unusual degree they have not crept into public view. Instead, public leadership activities show a rigorous effort to project a clear division of labour and observance of routine.

The writer is a professor of China studies at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. This comment is reprinted from the Washington Post.



Haitians at U.S. camp in Cuba still fear return

By Jane Arraf

Reuters

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba — While Haitians line the streets of Port-au-Prince to cheer American soldiers, thousands of Haitian refugees languishing in a U.S. base in Cuba say they won't go home until President Jean Bertrand Aristide is back.

Many of the refugees, physically and psychologically scarred by years of political violence and searching with frustration, say they will not feel safe even then.

In the first visit by foreign reporters to Guantanamo Bay since Washington agreed with Haiti's military leaders on the weekend to avert an invasion to restore Mr. Aristide, refugees Thursday said it would take more than the arrival of U.S. troops to convince them to return.

"Even if Aristide comes back we will not be safe," said Desire Jean Phaniel, holding a picture of his horribly-disfigured wife, fatally burned in a fire believed set by paramilitary thugs in a Port-au-Prince slum last December.

Suze Dijon, dressed in street clothes for the last photo before she died, was sitting on the edge of an iron hospital bed trying to smile for the camera.

But the 29-year-old woman's face had melted, leaving only a smooth sheet of plastic-looking skin where her left eye had been.

"One of my babies died with her," Mr. Phaniel, who fled Haiti four months ago, told Reuters.

Other refugees, noting military leader Raoul Cedras had reneged on his last promise to the United States to step down, said they would return after making sure that Mr. Aristide did.

Giant loudspeakers broadcast a translation from the camp's Creole radio station of the populist president's latest address calling for Haitians to rebuild their country.

Some of the refugees expressed disbelief when told that the last-minute agreement brokered by former



RUNNING FOR LIFE: A Haitian woman in Port-au-Prince tries to get on a bus leaving the capital to the countryside where Haitians believe they will be safer (AFP photo)

U.S. president Jimmy Carter did not call for the Haitian military to be disarmed — a major complaint of Mr. Aristide.

"They will keep their guns?" asked a bewildered school teacher from the southern town of Anse

d'Hauault who fled para-military gunmen. "We love our country but if the military stays we cannot go back."

Fourteen thousand Haitians are crammed into what was meant to be a temporary camp on the island.

The U.S. military has ex-

panded the tent city onto Guantanamo Bay's golf course and evacuated dependents of U.S. personnel because of security fears.

Both sides of the camp have erupted in sporadic violence.

Military police arrested

100 of the Haitians Monday after a protest over food turned into a stone-throwing riot which injured three American servicemen, military officials said.

Other camp officials said Monday's riot began after Haitians learned that the

agreement did not call for Gen. Cedras to leave the country.

"I understand the frustration level is high in all the camps," Commander Rick Thomas told reporters.

"I think the temperature in the camps has gone down

some but I think the frustration level is going to stay there because Guantanamo Bay, Cuba is not where they want to be."

The camp is hot, crowded and smelly. With no schools and no recreation, many of the refugees lie for hours at a time on their cots set up in rows of tents on the airport tarmac. Meal time, with what the refugees call a monotonous diet of rice, beans and some meat, is a focal point of the day.

On Thursday, crowds of Haitians inside the fenced compound surrounded foreign visitors, some shouting with rage at what they said were terrible conditions in the camp. "Look at my shoes," two of them screamed, waving broken sandals at reporter.

"President Clinton... nobody can stay in Haiti," we ask for political asylum," read the scrawled messages on cardboard signs held up by Haitians behind a barbed wire fence. One man displayed machete wounds on his arm and stomach.

U.N. refugee officials said they would resume finding out which Haitians wanted to be immediately returned home.

"Many might wait and see what happens but there are indications that if Aristide comes back, they will want to return," said Ralf Gruenert, of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He said he could not estimate the number.

Over 5,700 refugees have chosen to go back to their troubled homeland rather than stay in Guantanamo Bay since the United States began diverting boat people picked up at sea to the U.S. base in June. Virtually all have been trying to get to Miami.

U.S. military officials said they could not say when the United States would consider Haiti stable enough to forcibly repatriate all the refugees.

"Aristide will come back but what about everything that's happened?" said Anna Edouersen, 20, who said her mother and brother had been killed by the paramilitary and she had no home to go back to.

Election result won't affect nuclear German plans

By J. Terence Gallagher
Reuters

BONN — Germany's main political parties have drawn their battle lines over nuclear energy but the country's policy is unlikely to change quickly, whoever wins the Oct. 16 general election.

The opposition Social Democrats (SPD), who hope to gain power for the first time in 12 years, are committed to abandoning nuclear power, but party leaders are thinking in terms of decades, not months.

"To build a new energy supply structure beyond nuclear energy will take more time than many of the environmentalist politicians among us had hoped," Lower Saxony Premier Gerhard Schroeder said recently.

"It will take at least 30 years. It cannot be done in less time."

Mr. Schroeder has been earmarked to head a new "super-ministry" combining economics, energy and transport if the SPD ousts Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition.

Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) favour a gradual expansion of nuclear power and hope to implement a much-debated plan to store nuclear waste and reprocess fuel rods domestically.

Without reprocessing of its own, Germany has to pay dearly to have the work done in Britain and France.

The Free Democratic Party, junior partners in the coalition, has said a withdrawal from nuclear power would be difficult, especially since Germany is also trying to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels which pollute the atmosphere.

"For more than 10 years, SPD state governments have delayed construction and blocked the opening of nuclear plants, including a

Jimmy Carter — from president to peacemaker

By David Nagy
Reuters

WASHINGTON — After his triumph in securing an agreement to avert an invasion of Haiti, Jimmy Carter now looks a strong favourite to win the Nobel Peace Prize, which is due to be announced in October.

Talks between the SPD and the ruling coalition aimed at reaching a consensus on the nuclear issue broke down last October and subsequent talks on issues such as the Gorleben dump have ended without agreement.

Even if the nuclear power plants were shut down tomorrow, the waste problem would remain for thousands of years.

All German political parties are agreed on the need to find an appropriate site for permanent storage of nuclear waste," said Heinrich Seesing, a CDU member of parliament and spokesman on energy issues.

Monika Griefahn, Lower Saxony's environment minister who has been earmarked for the same post in an SPD government in Bonn, said her party recognises that Germany needed permanent storage of nuclear waste.

"But Gorleben is geologically unsuitable and a search must be made for an appropriate site," she told reporters.

Although committed to nuclear power, the CDU has been influenced by widespread concern about the environment.

"The CDU also wants increased security and safety for reactors," said Mr. Seesing. If returned to office, it plans to amend the atomic power law to provide for greater safety.

Mr. Seesing, who was

president from 1977 to 1981, met in June with North Korea's now-dead Stalinist leader Kim Il-Sung over Mr. Kim's refusal to allow international inspectors to verify that plutonium from a nuclear power plant was not being diverted to make nuclear weapons.

The former U.S. president, whose achievements in the White House fell short of his own expectations, has earned a formidable reputation as a globe-trotting mediator and peacemaker intent on defusing international crises.

In 1976, when America was still reeling from the Watergate scandals, Mr. Carter campaigned as a champion of the people who would restore integrity and competence to government. He formally took office in January 1977.

The former Georgia governor breezed out of nowhere to win the Democratic Party nomination, defeat incumbent Republican President Gerald Ford and take office as a kind of modern populist hero.

In 1980, with the economy crumbling and the Iran hostage crisis inflaming passions, he was swept from office by Ronald Reagan in a defeat of humiliating proportions. Mr. Reagan took office in January 1981.

The conservative Republican, pledging to restore America to world respect and leadership, won 44 of the 50 states, including all of Mr. Carter's native south except Georgia.

Mr. Carter has been nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize, at least the fifth time he has been nominated, because of his many peacemaking efforts. Some analysts speculated his efforts in Port-Au-Prince could clinch him the prize, which will be announced October 14 in Oslo, Norway.

Mr. Carter, who was

image with that of busy elder statesman and diplomatic mediator, using skills honed at the White House in promoting historic Israeli-Egyptian peace talks — and winning far more public affection than he ever enjoyed as president.

"People who thought he was a disaster in the White House regard him as a model elder statesman," columnist Mary McGrory wrote of his rebound. "He goes everywhere, doing good."

Indulging a passion for "crisis resolution" and operating as a private citizen from his Carter Centre in Atlanta, he promoted peace talks between Ethiopia and Eritrean rebels and headed an observer team at 1990 Nicaraguan elections that shifted power from the Sandinistas to the opposition.

He led a similar observer delegation at elections in Panama in 1989 and lent authoritative voice to charges the ballot had been sabotaged by strongman Manuel Noriega.

By 1993, he was an honoured visitor at fellow Democrat Bill Clinton's White House, backing Mr. Clinton up in his efforts to win passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement and helping celebrate the Israeli-Palestinian peace breakthrough.

Mr. Carter also regularly donated his services as a skilled carpenter to build housing for the poor. With wife Rosalynn he wrote a 1987 best-seller, "Everything to Gain: Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life."

Looking back from the vantage point of these retirement projects, the driven and stiff-necked

leader of old seemed mellow and happy in a 1991 television film, "Citizen Carter."

Asked to assess his own presidency, he said: "He tried hard, attempted the right things, was not always successful. Maybe he was naive in many ways."

He added: "The biggest failure we had was a political failure. I never was able to convince the American people that I was a forceful

and strong leader."

He left office with one epic foreign policy achievement — the 1979 Camp David accord between Egypt and Israel — plus a modest list of domestic reforms.

He brought Egypt's President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to Camp David for grueling negotiations Sept. 6-17, 1978. Later, when the accords

seemed to be unravelling, Mr. Carter saved the day by flying to Cairo and Jerusalem for personal shuttle diplomacy.

The treaties ended a state of war between Israel and Egypt, provided for Israeli withdrawal from Egypt's Sinai peninsula and established diplomatic relations. They were signed at the White House on March 26, 1979.



U.S. President Bill Clinton (right) listens as former president Jimmy Carter explains details of his successful negotiating trip to Haiti, the island (AFP photo)

Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1994 9

Financial Markets
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close	New York Close
Sterling Pound	1.5750	1.5770
Deutsche Mark	1.5465	1.5488
Swiss Franc	1.2845	1.2865
French Franc	5.2875	5.2935
Japanese Yen	98.05	97.83
European Currency Unit	1.2316	1.2330

USD Per SGD

European Opened = 8:00 a.m. GMT

Exchangerate Interest Rates Date: 23/9/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.75	5.00	5.31	5.67
Sterling Pound	5.25	5.75	6.37	7.51
Deutsche Mark	4.81	4.87	5.06	5.50
Swiss Franc	3.75	3.81	4.12	4.56
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.65	6.18
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.12	2.25	2.43

Interest rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

General Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 24/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.6960
Sterling Pound	1.0966	1.1021
Deutsche Mark	0.4492	0.4514
Swiss Franc	0.5404	0.5431
French Franc	0.1315	0.1320
Japanese Yen	0.7084	0.7119
Dutch Guilder	0.4007	0.4027
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0446	0.0448
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 24/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahrain Dinar	1.6300	1.6490
Lebanese Lira	0.040945	0.042025
Saudi Riyal	0.1853	0.1871
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3490
Qatari Riyal	0.1900	0.1920
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7870	1.8150
UAE Dirham	0.1885	0.1898
Greek Drachma	0.2785	0.3135
Cypriot Pound	1.3450	1.4935

* Per 100

\$4b U.S.-Pakistan energy deals signed

ISLAMABAD (R) — U.S. businessmen signed energy agreements with Pakistani industrialists Saturday envisaging an investment of about \$4 billion.

A total of 16 agreements, whose signing was witnessed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, were concluded during a visit to Pakistan by U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, who headed a large U.S. business delegation.

The accords, worth more than an original estimate of \$3 billion, were signed despite recent tensions between the United States and Pakistan over Islamabad's alleged nuclear ambitions.

The United States cut off all military and new economic aid in 1990 over the nuclear issue, blocking the transfer of F-16 fighter jets

already paid for by Islamabad.

Mrs. Bhutto, in brief remarks after the signing ceremony, said the agreements are a landmark in private sector investment in Pakistan by her government.

"Today Pakistan is a country which offers macro-economic stability, and macro-economic stability comes about if a government has the public support to take harsh measures that are necessary to put the economy on track," she said.

Mrs. Bhutto said Saturday's agreements envisaged an investment of nearly \$4 billion. She gave no exact figure.

Pakistan says it has acquired the capability to make nuclear weapons, but has taken a policy decision not to do so.

Arab Gulf states seek compromise with EU on oil tax

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states, which produce nearly one fifth of the world's oil output, are to hold more negotiations with the European Union (EU) to find a compromise to a planned energy tax, a senior Gulf official was quoted as saying.

"We are still at the stage of dialogue with the EU because there should be a link between environment and development," said Sheikh Fahim Al Qassimi, secretary general of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

"In case any taxes are imposed on oil, their impact on development in other countries should be considered. We are studying all these issues with the EU and we hope we will reach a compromise formula," he told the UAE daily Al Ittihad.

GCC states and other oil producers have strongly attacked the proposed carbon tax on the grounds it will depress demand for crude and hit their economies. The tax, which could reach \$10 per imported barrel of oil by the year 2000, hinges on approval by Japan and the United States.

The EU has defended the tax as a means of protecting the environment by containing carbon dioxide emissions, blamed for global warming. GCC officials are concerned the tax could hit their oil exports, and one gloomy scenario estimates they could lose \$17 billion a year.

"We repeat our stand that this tax will harm the GCC economies because oil is our main source of income," Sheikh Fahim said.

"We also differ with them on their concept of the tax, which they say is designed to protect the environment."

CAIRO (R) — The size of Egypt's cotton crop will fall about 23 per cent this season, to about 264,000 tonnes of lint compared with 343,400 tonnes in 1993, the government newspaper Al Ahram said Saturday.

The decline is due to both a reduction in the area planted and a fall in the average yield, according to figures attributed to agriculture ministry consultant Saad Nasar.

For seed cotton, the forecast is about 314,000 tonnes, compared with 416,000 last year, he said.

The first estimate after the harvest is complete will be announced on Oct. 23.

In this growing season, which is now drawing to a close, Egyptian farmers

planted 303,000 hectares (748,721 acres) with cotton, against 371,490 hectares (917,961 acres) last year.

Most of the rest of the land was planted with rice or maize, Mr. Nassar said.

The ministry expects the average yield of lint cotton to be between 851 and 894 kilogrammes per hectare (2.47 acres), averaging 872 kilogrammes compared with a 60-year record of 926 kilogrammes last year, he said.

Opposition newspapers have said the cotton crop has suffered badly from a decision to limit aerial spraying and reduce the amount of pesticide used to combat the boll weevil.

But Agriculture Minister Sayed Wali said last week that the crop was excellent

and the yield among the highest ever.

Domestic consumption is about 340,000 tonnes of cotton a year but some of that is cheap cotton imported so the country can export more of its own high-value long-staple cotton.

Exports in the cotton marketing year which ended on Aug. 31 reached 371,000 bales, or 121,000 tonnes, and exporting officials do not expect the fall in production to cause problems with meeting export demand in the year 1994/5.

"We think our... stock will be enough to cover all requirements domestically and for exports," said Samir Anis of the state-owned Holding Company for Cotton.

Japanese carmakers to use cheap car strategy for Asia

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese carmakers are to fight aggressively marketing by U.S. and European rivals in Asia with a new low-priced car strategy.

Toyota Motor Corp. has

said it is considering plans to develop a low-priced car in the 1300-to-1500 cc range just for the Southeast Asia market.

Honda Motor Corp. also

plans to make smaller cars,

costing up to 30 per cent less

than current models, possibly

starting 1996, for the domestic

market and rest of Asia.

Mitsubishi Motor Corp.

has followed suit with a project

to introduce cheaper cars

in China and other Asian

nations to meet growing

demand, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported Saturday.

Mitsubishi, which has

now scrambled to catch up,

with Toyota and Honda starting

negotiation with several

Chinese carmakers to set up

auto ventures.

Japanese carmakers dis-

patched their officials to Chi-

na last week.

Japan's carmakers

are

struck by

discount

fever

TOKYO (AFP) — Notorious for being the most expensive country in the world and a frustrating market for foreigners, Japan is in the grip of a fierce retailing war that has ignited "discount fever" among the nation's long-suffering consumers.

"The price war has begun," declared Shiroaki Yamauchi, head of marketing for the Yamaya distribution chain, which sells alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks at prices 50 to 50 per cent less than in traditional stores.

"For a long time, Japanese consumers had no idea of prices outside Japan," said Mr. Yamauchi, who offers lower prices by eliminating the middleman and selling straight to the public. "But paying three times more for the product is quite stupid, they now realize this."

Bolstering the retail buckers is a study released last week by Japan's Economic Planning Department that found food in Tokyo to be 1.88 times more costly than in Paris and 2.5 times more expensive than in London.

In some cases, with the high-valued yen making differences more acute, prices can be 300 to 400 per cent higher. A 33-centilitre (10-ounce) bottle of Japanese beer costs 225 yen (\$2.5) in a Tokyo supermarket, compared to the equivalent of 40 to 50 yen for local beer in the United States or Europe.

A liter (1.8 pints) of milk costs 200 yen in Japan compared to 60 yen in a typical European supermarket. The price of beef in Japan is simply astronomical, reaching \$120 per kilogramme — roughly eight times the price in Europe. As for rice, a dietary staple here, the much-fleeced Japanese household has to pay two to six times more than in other countries.

But the power of large retail monopolies to dictate prices may be over.

It has been breached by fierce competition among a few distributors that are hammering down prices, particularly on imported products.

"The era in which manufacturers held sway over consumer is definitely over," predicts Isao Nakachi, president of the giant food distribution company Daieti, which in 1992 was one of the first to open hostilities with low-priced orange juice, followed by cheaper beer this year.

Orange juice fell from 350 yen a liter to 168 yen, while Japanese beer is now in competition with beers from the Netherlands, the United States, Belgium and China, which are half the price.

The result is that foreign beer grabbed three per cent of the market for the first five months of this year, up from 1.7 per cent last year, although the discounters are now offering Japanese beer at cut rates.

Daieti continued its price offensive in March by selling imported camera film at 166 yen for a 24-frame roll, compared to 529 yen for competing Japanese brands.

The price-slackers owe much of their success to international pressure on Tokyo to bulldoze through regulations and practices that have cosseted Japanese shopkeepers for decades.

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Ipswich down champions United

LONDON (AFP) — Ipswich's Paul Mason shocked champions Manchester United with two goals in their 3-2 topsy-turvy win at Portman Road in the English Premiership Saturday.

But Newcastle remained top of the Premiership despite drawing 1-1 at home to Liverpool.

The toast of England last year as they won the Premiership and F.A. Cup, were humbled by two first half strikes from the former Aberdeen player.

United were on top early, but Mason knocked the ball in at the far post on the quarter hour to open the score. Mason beat stand-in keeper Gary Walsh again just before half-time — a great left foot effort which Walsh could only get a finger to.

But Manchester United's Eric Cantona pulled a goal back in the second half. Paul Scoles, one of coach Alex Ferguson's younger players then hit the equaliser to complete what seemed a great escape.

But in the 81st minute, Canadian Frank Yallop crossed from the right for former Tottenham player Steve Sedgley to score the winner. Robert Lee, of leaders Newcastle, put them ahead in

the 50th minute against coach Kevin Keegan's former club, Liverpool.

At 0-0 at half-time, Lee collected the ball on the edge of the box after the break and turned into the top left hand corner from an acute angle. But Liverpool's veteran striker Ian Rush hit a 25-yarder which swerved to equalise.

Keegan, who tied up his 2.25 million-pound (\$3.4 million) signing of Derby striker Paul Kitson before kick-off, now only has a two-point cushion over Blackburn opposite number Kenny Dalglish.

Blackburn's Alan Shearer scored twice, once from the spot, against Aston Villa and Chris Sutton got the other in a 3-1 win. Villa's Nigerian Ugo Ehiogu pulled a goal back in the last minute.

Tottenham Hotspur's leaky defence cost them dear once more as they fell 4-1 to Nottingham Forest at White Hart Lane. Ilie Dumitrescu brought Spurs back into the game against Nottingham Forest to equalise in the 32nd minute. 20 minutes after Steve Stone had put the Premiership newcomers ahead.

Teddy Sheringham had a chance of putting Spurs ahead on the stroke of half-

time, but again missed from the spot. A header from Brian Roy after the interval brought Tottenham a 2-1 lead, before he sidefooted a third.

Then Norwegian international Lars Bohnen clapped home to finish the scoring and keep their unbeaten record.

Dion Dublin kept up his remarkable scoring record since his 2-million move from Manchester United to Coventry.

He scored his third goal in three games after only two minutes to put Phil Neal's team ahead against Southampton at Highfield Road.

But two goals from Ian Dowie and another from Hans Ekholm gave Saints a 3-1 victory.

Chelsea's Paul Furlong earned his side a 1-0 victory in their derby at Crystal Palace.

Alan Reeves's goal for Wimbledon was enough for a 1-0 win at QPR, and Niall Quinn and Uwe Rosler gave Manchester City a 2-0 win at home to Norwich.

Everton's Gary Ablett put Everton ahead in the second half against Leicester, but Mark Draper equalised for Leicester for a 1-1 final scoreline.

English fans praise peaceful World Cup

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — England did not have a team at the World Cup finals in the United States. But its fans, often the worst behaved, praised the organisers for producing one of the best tournaments ever.

Launching a conference aimed at organising the 1996 European Championship, which England hosts, the (English) Football Supporters Association (FSA) Friday congratulated the Americans for producing "one of the best tournaments in recent memory."

"They spent millions of dollars promoting the World Cup and creating a real 'vibe' around the stadia," said the FSA's international officer, Steve Beauchamp.

Bremen feel the heat of Bundesliga

BONN (AFP) — League leaders Werder Bremen felt the heat here on Saturday as their rivals all won to stay in touch at the top of the Bundesliga.

Borussia Dortmund, FC Kaiserslautern and Karlsruhe all won to join Bayern Munich on nine points, two behind Bremen who had won on Friday.

Dortmund were the most impressive winners, with Swiss star Stefan Chapuisat and Andreas Moller both grabbing two goals in the 5-0 drubbing of visitors Stuttgart.

Moller's first came after just four minutes and Chapuisat's double in the 11th and 14th minutes killed off the game straight away.

Kaiserslautern won 3-1 at home against Schalke 04 while Karlsruhe produced a great escape with a dramatic 4-3 win at Cologne. Heiko Bonan's winner coming one minute from time after the home side had led 2-0 in the early stages.

The biggest score of the day from Borussia Moenchengladbach, who cracked seven past hapless Bochum, Effenberg scoring in the 16th and 87th minutes.

Bremen had won 2-0 against Duisburg on Friday, while Bayern Munich beat Munich 1860 3-1 earlier in the week.

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Berger wins pole at Portuguese Grand Prix

ESTORIL, Portugal (AP) — Damon Hill used his overhauled Williams to shave 27 thousandths of a second off his provisional time Saturday, but it still left German Berger and Ferrari on the pole for Sunday's Portuguese Grand Prix.

Berger, who set the fastest time of 1:20.608 on Friday in the 4.36-kilometre Fernando Pires da Silva Circuit outside Lisbon, didn't improve on his time from Friday. But it still was good enough for him to win his second pole of the Grand Prix.

Hill, needing a victory in Estoril to close within one point of idled Formula One championship leader Michael Schumacher, pushed his Williams hard Saturday, but his time of 1:20.766 was still 0.158 seconds slower than Berger.

Berger, however, is not entirely comfortable with his Ferrari.

"I had a few problems — the car is handling a bit strangely," Berger said. "I had a good lap yesterday so there was no need to take risk today and maybe hurt myself."

In an attempt to catch Berger Friday, Hill flipped his Williams near the end of qualifying, leaving the Briton shaken up but without injury.

Hill's countryman and teammate David Coulthard cut .087 of a second off his Friday time to 1:21.033 and retain his starting spot on the inside of the second row.

Mika Hakkinen was unable to improve his time but kept his McLaren fourth with a time of 1:21.251 and will be followed by a Ferrari of Frenchman Jean Alesi (1:21.517), Ukyo Katayama's Tyrrell-Yamaha (1:21.590), Martin Brundle in the other McLaren (1:21.565), and Rubens Barrichello of Brazil in a Jordan-Hart (1:21.796).

Hill's car needed a new engine, suspension, body-work and wings after his tangle Friday with the Eddie Irvine's Jordan-Hart that somersaulted the Williams into a gravel pit.

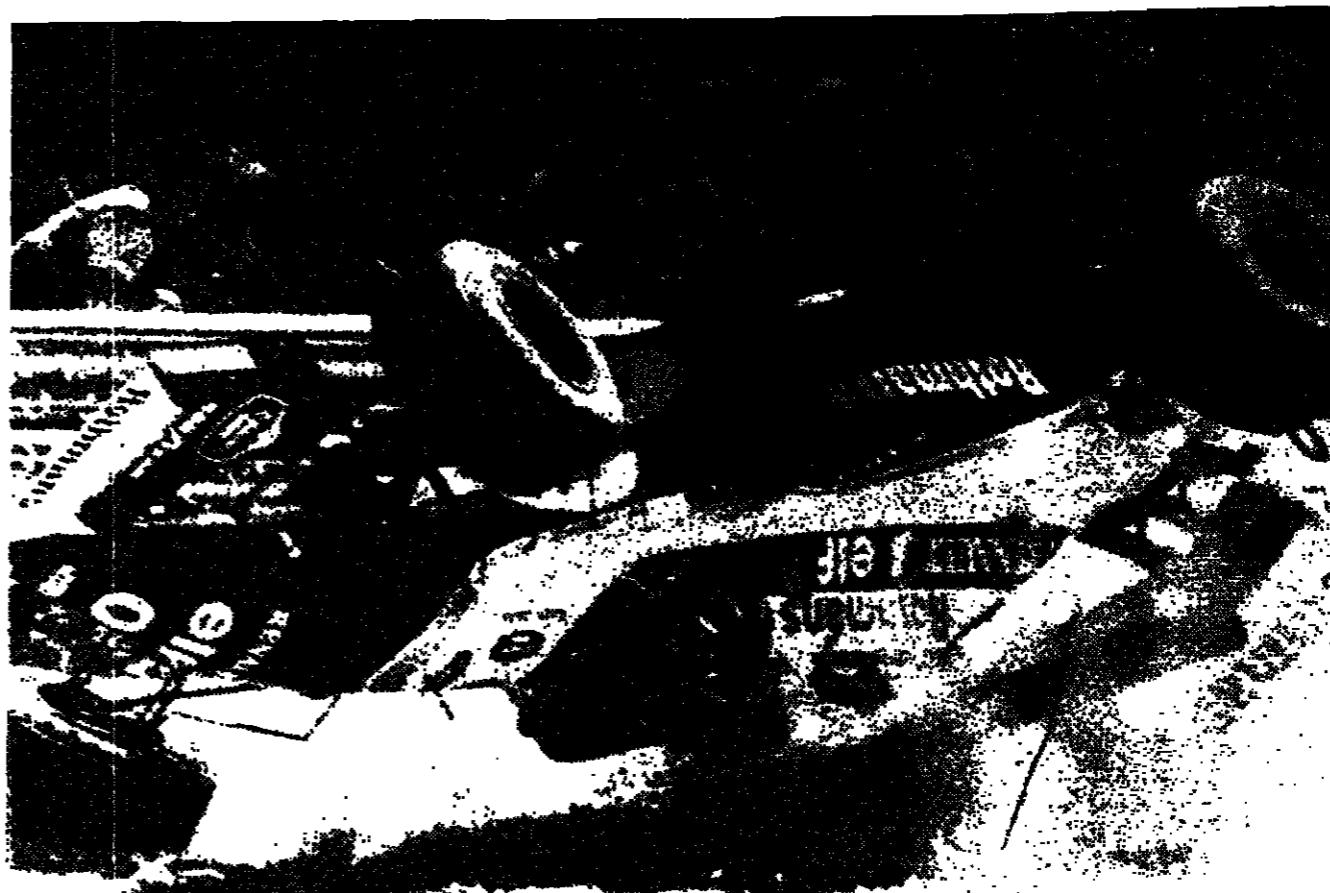
The 24-year-old Briton said he and his crew worked into the evening on the car's new setup until "we thought we were within shouting distance" of Ferrari's best time.

Hill clocked the best time in Saturday morning's practice and then was first out of the pits for qualifying. He gradually improved his time before clouds formed over Estoril.

A victory Sunday would move him within one point of Schumacher with three races remaining on the Formula One calendar. Schumacher is serving the second of his two-race suspension for ignoring a black flag at Silverstone earlier this season.

Although Berger is third in the points standings, he is 43 points behind Schumacher and cannot win the title. However, he is trying to demonstrate Ferrari is returning to competitiveness this season after four years without a victory.

He won the German Grand Prix in July after taking the pole and Alesi won the pole for the Italian Grand Prix two weeks ago.



first practice for the Portuguese Grand Prix in Estoril Friday (AFP photo)

Al Hussein, Al Wihdat lead in first division soccer tourney

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Hussein and Al Wihdat clubs remained in the lead of the Jordan Soccer Federation first division league championship after defeating Al Jeeel and Al Qadissieh respectively.

Both teams have eight points after the conclusion of the fourth week of competition, Al Hussein beat Al Jeeel 2-1 in a match held at Irbid stadium. Al Hussein's

goals were scored by Muwafaq Abu Hudeib and Ajmal Abu Abd and Jirys Tadros scored for Al Faisali and Amjad Abu Tuaimah scored Al Jazirah's only goal.

Also Thursday, Al Arabi defeated Al Karmel 2-1.

Al Karmel opened scoring in the second half by its striker Mahmoud Suleiman, but Al Arabi's players fought hard to adjust the result, scoring two goals by Ahmad Al Kilani and Ayman Al Omari.

The fourth week matches were opened Wednesday by a crushing victory of 4-0 for Shabab Al Hussein over Al Ahli.

Shabab Al Hussein's Maher Sarsour scored three goals and Wa'il Kattouh only one.

Standings after 4th week

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Hussein	4	4	—	—	15	2	8
Wihdat	4	4	—	—	5	3	8
Ramtha	4	2	2	—	8	3	6
Kufr Soom	4	3	—	1	11	6	6
Faisali	4	2	1	1	8	3	5
Ahli	4	1	2	1	3	6	4
Shabab Al Hussein	4	1	1	2	7	9	3
Jazirah	4	1	1	2	3	4	3
Arabi	4	1	1	2	3	8	3
Jeeel	4	—	1	3	3	8	1
Qadissieh	4	—	1	3	4	10	1
Karmel	4	—	4	1	9	9	1

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Sports



JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1994 1

Japan hopes diplomacy will resolve sports row

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said Saturday Tokyo was seeking to resolve a row over a visit to Japan by a top official from Taiwan through diplomatic efforts.

Japan has granted a visa to Taiwan Vice Premier Hsu Li-Teh to allow him to attend the Hiroshima Asian Games due to start Oct. 2.

The move provoked strong objections from China, which sees Taiwan as a constituent, if rebellious, province.

Murayama told reporters that Foreign Minister Yohei Kono had contacted the Chinese government to try to persuade Beijing to drop its opposition to HSU's visit.

"I think Foreign Minister Kono is making contact. We will make some efforts," he was quoted as saying by Kyodo news service.

Taiwan has said HSU would attend the Hiroshima Games to promote Taiwan's bid to host the 2002 Asian Games, the Beijing rejects the claim, saying Taiwan has not yet been selected as a candidate city.

Chinese Olympic Committee chief Wei Jizhong sent a telegramme to Hiroshima Games organiser Takayoshi Fukushima urging Japan to go back on its decision to grant a visa.

Wei said he met Olympic Council of Asia chief Fahad Al Ahmad in Kuwait and quoted him as opposing the issuance of an Asian Games identification card to HSU.

A spokesman with the Hiroshima Games said they were currently trying to contact the head of the Olympic Council of Asia in Kuwait to talk to him directly about the matter.

"We are trying to reach Kuwait to try to confirm what the latest situation is, any new developments would have to come after that," he

said.

China, sporting the largest delegation, has raised the spectre of a boycott if HSU attends and has warned Japan of "grave consequences" if it fails to keep HSU out.

A record 7,300 athletes and officials from 42 nations are due to take part in the Hiroshima Games.

Palestinians pull out of games

JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Palestinians have been forced to withdraw from what would have been their first appearance in the Asian Games for lack of money, an official told AFP.

However a small delegation of administrators expect to make the trip to Hiroshima, Japan, for the event from Oct. 1-16, said the official from the youth and sports "ministry" in the Palestinian self-rule authority.

The football team hoped to take part and the draw for the games was altered at the last minute to accommodate them.

S.Korea hopes to beat Japan in medal race

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea hopes to beat Japan in the race for medals at next month's Asian Games but harbours little hope of besting powerhouse China, officials said Friday.

"We are no match for the Chinese, but we will try hard to beat the Japanese," said Kim Chong-Duk, a performance analyst with the South Korean delegation.

South Korea, which placed second after China in the 1986 and 1990 games, hopes to win 60 to 68 of the 37 gold medals at stake in Hiroshima. In the Beijing games in 1990, it earned 54 golds.

The South will have a 756-member delegation, including 579 athletes, and compete in all but two of the 34 sports during the Oct. 2-16 games. It will not field teams in karate and kabaddi.

Team officials said they are looking to sweep the golds in archery, and also perform well in shooting and weight-lifting.

The newcomers are strong competitors in wrestling and boxing, in which South Korea has previously earned many gold medals.

Officials here believe that a good South Korean performance in Hiroshima might help Pusan, the nation's second-largest city, win the right to host the 2002 games. Other bidders are Jakarta and Taipei.

The new addition of karate, a traditional Japanese martial art, and the advantage of competing in their home country could strengthen Japan's chances.

"A margin of two or three gold medals will decide the race," Kim said.

South Korea's standing could also depend on how it fares against five former Soviet republics in Central Asia — Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan, Kirghizstan and Turkmenistan

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Algiers to free Madani, Belhadj

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian authorities have promised to release shortly two leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) under house arrest, their former detainees said in an interview published Saturday.

FIS President Abassi Madani and Vice-President Ali Belhadj have been held under house arrest since Sept. 13, when the authorities freed them from prison in a bid to promote talks on ending an extremist Muslim rebellion in the country. They were serving long sentences for endangering national security.

Three other FIS officials held with them but released unconditionally told the satirical weekly *Al Wajh Al Akhar*, "We asked the (Algerian) leadership for the (two men's) period under house arrest not to be long, and they promised it wouldn't be."

The three — Kamel Guemazi, Abdal Kader Omar and Noureddine Chigara — added that they themselves agreed to leave prison only after receiving this assurance and that they expected "the liberation of all (FIS) detainees."

A leader of the Islamic Message (MMI-Haras), Ahmad Kerfah, said he found Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj in "good health and spirits" during a recent visit with them.

Mr. Kerfah, who said the pair met with party leaders and other politicians every Wednesday, added that Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj were "determined to find solutions to the country's problems" if three conditions were met.

These were: "Rehabilitation of the FIS, total freedom of movement" for themselves, and that the FIS's consultative council be allowed to meet "with all its members."

Rabah Kebir, head of the party's leadership in exile, said FIS and its leaders "are now convinced of the need to work towards finding a solution" to the Algerian crisis.

Yeltsin in Britain en route to U.S.

BRIZE NORTON, England (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin, heading for America with an appeal to get down to business, was greeted as an old friend Saturday by Prime Minister John Major.

Mr. Major, who met Mr. Yeltsin at the Royal Air Force Base at Brize Norton, 90 kilometers northwest of London, said the two leaders planned to discuss a range of issues Saturday and Sunday.

"We also intend to spend some time enjoying ourselves," said Mr. Major. "We have prepared the legislative base, we have prepared the projects, we have the raw materials. We're ready."

He ticked off a list of areas for investment, including the oil and gas industry, space, auto and aircraft manufacturing, pipelines and reconstructing nuclear power plants.

The Russian leader said it was time for the United States and Russia to meet on equal footing. "We have to level out our relationship — and agree upon this with the American side," he said. "We have to become equal."

Mr. Yeltsin will stop in Seattle on his way home and tour a Boeing facility.

Although the president has a heavy schedule of political and business meetings, he and his wife, Naina, plan to make time for a yacht outing and a visit with an American family in Seattle.

Mr. Yeltsin intended to spend time relaxing as well as holding working sessions.

"We will discuss long and short term issues — but we do intend to spend some time enjoying ourselves," he said.

Officials said the two leaders would discuss several international issues, including a United States proposal to lift the arms embargo against the Bosnian Muslims, which both London and Moscow oppose.

Russia has "categorically" rejected the proposal, while Britain is more circumspect, intending to abstain if there is a vote on the issue in the U.N. Security Council.

As aircraft bombed the Munzur mountains and Kutudere ravine, a deeply-carved valley extending for nearly 40 kilometers and surrounded by forests, about 5,000 mountain commandos moved through the region, known as a centre for training PKK fighters, officials said.

They said they believed guerrilla leader Semdin Sakik was among the group with whom soldiers had clashed in Kutudere.

Mr. Sakik, a seasoned veteran of the 10-year-old guerrilla fight in the southeast Turkey, was recently named PKK commander of a "northern area" of five provinces including Tunceli.

The two leaders also discussed the "general situation in Russia and the future of economic reform there," a British government spokesman said.

According to a Downing Street spokeswoman, Mr. Yeltsin told Mr. Major that bilateral relations are "better than ever."



Russian President Boris Yeltsin waves to well-wishers after being greeted by British Prime Minister John Major upon his arrival on Saturday at an air force base outside London (AFP photo)

Turkey pursues PKK rebels

TUNCELI, Turkey (R) — Turkish aircraft blasted crags of the Munzur mountain chain on Saturday as part of the third day of an offensive against an estimated 3,000 separatist Kurdish guerrillas in the eastern province of Tunceli.

Military officials in the region said Turkish troops killed nine Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels on Friday night during a battle with a group of about 150 rebels in Kutudere region.

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Rights group accuses Egypt of curbing freedom of expression

CAIRO (Agencies) — A western human rights group on Saturday accused Egypt of harassing and detaining journalists and urged President Hosni Mubarak to halt any practice limiting freedom of expression.

The statement of the Human Rights Watch-Middle East follows recent questioning or detention of several journalists and lawyers related to the government campaign to quell violence by radicals.

The letter urged dropping charges against Mustafa Bakri, chief editor of the Liberal Party daily Al Ahram who was detained and questioned earlier in the week.

Security agents released Mr. Bakri on 5,000 Egyptian pounds (\$1,500) bail after accusing him of publishing false articles in exchange for money from Iraq. Mr. Bakri can still be tried if the prosecutor finds sufficient evidence against him.

Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif, who acts as the spokesman for the president's office, could not be reached immediately for comment. Egypt's government often does not respond publicly to complaints by human groups.

The group's letter noted that Egypt is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees freedom of expression.

"Editors and journalists continue to be targeted by the security apparatus and detained and interrogated solely because they have articulated views or published

information critical of the state," the letter added.

"The recent actions taken by Egyptian security and prosecutorial authorities are clear violations of the right of free expression," it said. It added there was no justification for the government action "on the basis of national security or public order."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Qadhafi proposes Arab summit to UAE

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan on Saturday received a letter from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi proposing an Arab summit, the official news agency Wam reported. The agency said Libyan Oil Minister Abdullah Al Badri handed over the letter on "Libya's call for a summit to unify Arab ranks, to clear the atmosphere and achieve a reconciliation among the brothers." It did not say whether Sheikh Zayed accepted the proposal for the summit, which would be the first since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Mr. Badri, current president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, arrived in the UAE on Friday on the first leg of a regional tour. He is also to visit Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states to discuss oil issues.

Bentson to visit Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentson will visit Saudi Arabia early next month to discuss Riyadh's cash problems and the price of oil, officials here said Friday. Mr. Bentson will travel to the Saudi capital from Oct. 4 to 6 for talks with King Fahd, Oil Minister Hisham Nazir and Finance Minister Mohammad Ali Abul Khail, the treasury officials said. The Saudis are major clients for the United States, with orders pending for delivery of nearly \$30 billion worth of military equipment by the year 2004. They also have committed themselves to buying \$6 billion worth of aircraft from Boeing and McDonnell Douglas but want to delay payment because of cash problems caused by falling oil prices. Mr. Bentson will fly to Riyadh after participating in the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Madrid, preceded by an Oct. 1 meeting of finance ministers of the Group of Seven industrial powers.

Zhirinovsky holidaying in Tunisia

TUNIS (AFP) — Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the extreme-nationalist deputy of the Russian parliament and head of the Liberal Democrat Party in Russia, is on holiday in Tunisia where he arrived 13 days ago, sources said. An independent Russian source said Mr. Zhirinovsky was to meet Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali Friday, but a presidential spokesman told AFP that the Tunisian president had "had no contact" with the Russian politician. Mr. Zhirinovsky is staying at a hotel in Hammamet, a seaside resort 60 kilometers from Tunis, from where he was reported to have said he would travel to Libya to meet Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. At the Russian embassy in Tunis, a Russian diplomat was "sceptical" about these meetings.

Iran's Velayati leaves for New York

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati left for New York on Saturday to take part in the annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. The official Iranian news agency IRNA said Mr. Velayati will outline Iran's stands on various international issues and discuss major issues pertaining to the Islamic World as well as the "double-standard attitude of international bodies towards such issues."

Ames exposed 34 secret U.S. agents

WASHINGTON (AP) — An investigation by the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) inspector general has concluded that confessed spy Aldrich H. Ames identified more than 34 secret U.S. and allied agents to the Soviet Union over a nine-year period, the Washington Post reported Saturday. Quoting unnamed sources it said were familiar with a 400-page classified draft, the newspaper said Mr. Ames, a veteran counter-intelligence officer, also exposed a total of 55 clandestine U.S. and allied operations to the Soviets — about double the number previously admitted. CIA Director James Woolsey was scheduled to brief key members of Congress next week on the report, which was prepared under the direction of Frederick P. Hitz, the agency's inspector general. The report, according to the Post, blames the "almost complete indifference of senior CIA supervisors" who from 1986 failed to put "adequate resources" into searching for a Soviet mole in the agency.

Palestinian killed in police car accident

HEBRON (R) — A Palestinian was killed and another seriously hurt when the car in which they were travelling was in collision with an Israeli police vehicle in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian sources said on Saturday. Both were members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Fatah movement. Fatah said in a leaflet a day of mourning would be observed in Idna village, west of Hebron, where the two men lived. The accident took place near Idna on Friday. An Israeli police spokesman said three Israeli policemen were injured in the accident.

Cypriot president arrives in Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides arrived here Saturday on his first visit to Syria for talks with President Hafez Al Assad on bilateral ties and the Middle East peace process, diplomats said. Mr. Clerides was accompanied by his Foreign Minister Alecos Michailides on the three-day visit, Syrian presidential spokesman Jibril Kuriyeh said. Cyprus and Syria have signed several cooperation accords, notably relating to security and the fight against crime and drugs. Cyprus aims to strengthen ties with its Middle East neighbours within the context of the Israeli-Arab peace process. Mr. Clerides has made two private visits to Israel, and Cyprus recently opened an embassy in the Jewish state. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres became the first senior government official to visit Cyprus at the end of July.

10 die in heavy rains in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Heavy rains caused the deaths of 10 people in western Algeria, officials told Algerian radio Saturday. Seven people were swept away in the Tiaret region, while two small girls were killed when their house collapsed late Friday in Medea. The tenth victim was electrocuted when a high tension cable came down in the department of Tissemit. The rains followed several years marked by drought and caused material damage in the three departments, where about 100 families were reported to have been made homeless after their houses collapsed. In eastern Algeria, heavy rains also caused material damage but there were no casualties, Algerian radio said.

Rocket kills 10 teachers in Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — A rocket slammed into Kabul University on Saturday, and hospital officials said 10 teachers were killed and several wounded.

The university, already pockmarked by rockets and its classrooms strewn with broken glass, opened last month after being closed for two years by incessant fighting between the factions who rule the Afghan capital.

"It's very bad," said Mohammad Zahir, a teacher who took some of his wounded colleagues to a nearby hospital. "We just don't know what to do."

It was not clear who fired the deadly missile.

Students had stayed home Saturday because of renewed fighting in the western suburb of Kabul, near the university.

The two small groups,

claiming to represent Afghans,

began fighting nine days ago.

Since then more than 1,100 people have been wounded and as many as 350 people killed, according to the International Red Cross.

Insurgents, once revered as saviors for throwing out the communists in 1992, turned their weapons on each other in savage battles for power.

According to the Red Cross, 4,500 people have been killed in Kabul since the beginning of the year.

The city is in ruins and an estimated 750,000 people have fled, many of them living in refugee camps outside the eastern city of Jalalabad.

Truce halts bloodshed in Kabul

Earlier, a temporary ceasefire was called for to facilitate

Claes looks set for NATO job

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes is assured of becoming the next North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) secretary-general after his only rivals for the job either gave up or lost crucial support, alliance sources said on Saturday.

They said Norway's endorsement of Mr. Claes took all remaining suspense out of the diplomatic maneuvering to fill the chair left vacant when Germany's Manfred Woerner died from cancer last month.

"Now it's a one-horse race. There is no realistic chance at this stage that it can be anyone other than Claes," said one source.

Norway announced on Friday night it was not proposing former Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg for the job because he lacked support among NATO's 16 na-

tions.

In this week's national elections, Mr. Elleman-Jensen missed out on his ambition of becoming Danish prime minister, but his opposition Liberal Party scored well.

At its congress on Saturday, the Liberal Party unanimously reelected Mr. Elleman-Jensen as its leader.

Mr. Elleman-Jensen told Danish radio on Saturday that for him "NATO is something special" but that he would stay in Danish politics rather than seek another international post if he did not get the alliance job.

One NATO source said he "would not bet a single cent" on the possibility of some new candidate for secretary-general emerging before Tuesday, the closing date for applications, and he could decrease his chances even

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COLUMN 10

Gorbachev gets pension rise

MOSCOW (R) — Mikhail Gorbachev's monthly state pension has jumped from 4,000 roubles to 760,000 roubles a month but it's not quite the